

F. A. N. N. Y:

OR, THE

A M O U R S

OF A

West-Country young LADY.

Contained in a SERIES of

Genuine L E T T E R S.

Interspersed with some entertaining Particulars,
during her TRAVELS abroad.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

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Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to
GEORGE HERVEY, Esq;

My dear Mr. Hervey,

6th Oct. 12 at night.

BY so much the more so, as I approach still nearer to the fatal hour that threatens a perpetual separation from you for ever, O! let me pour into your bosom the woes I shall never cease to endure, to what

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part

part foever of the world my cruel father shall transplant me. It is but just, before I leave you, to acknowledge how you are beloved by me, that you may on no future occasion harbour the least mistrust of my having proved ungrateful for all the favours you have conferred on me; favours, transcending every faculty of man, but that of love, the most intense and durable; for love, true love, my own heart dictates, knows no intermission; but ever grasping at the proper object, surmounts all difficulties in the passage to its fruition.

THIS, Sir, is your case, or never was it that of any other mortal; this Sir, forgive me when I urge it, is my own; or never was it yours. I need not now palliate or disguise the naked truth, or dread exposing my sentiments, tho' my person is denied you; for possibly we never may behold each other more to raise a blush upon my cheeks, which must colour for the freedom of this declaration, so unusual from my sex to yours.

DEAR

DEAR Sir, regard this only in the light of the last testament of one, who having nothing in nature left to her own disposal, not even her own will, has constituted you the executor of her still subsisting love and inclination; these none can rob you of, how barbarously or knavishly soever inclined; nor can you divest yourself of this donation by any renunciation of your own: for though I may be disposed of, even beyond the sight or knowledge of the best of men; or when himself shall have submitted to another mate, these legacies shall still attend you wheresoever you go, as testimonies of my sincerity.

LET me intreat you not to expose your person to the danger of attempting my deliverance: my father hath three servants to attend us, all armed; nor will the risk of serving me, countervail the hazard of a life more precious to me than twenty of my own. Let fate have its run, let me experience what human

nature can endure ; but O ! let not Mr. Hervey plunge himself into the jaws of death for my sake. Whilst you are safe, tho' absent, I have still a friend, a single comfort still subsisting ; but should the will of destiny deprive me of your life, even hope, the aid of every miserable, will be cut off from your loving wife, (or no body's)

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE HARVEY, Esq; to Miss
GRAHAM.

7th Oct. 1729.

TEN thousand daggers plung'd into my breast could not more certainly have racked my heart, than have the plaintive sorrows of my dearest Fanny. My dear, I fly upon the wings of love to save thee from thy father's sentence ; then shall the danger of a combat terrify me ? The single arm, if stretched in virtue's
cause,

cause, will chace or conquer whole armies of wretched mercenaries, who fight for hire and daily subsistence. These fight for a master, I for my all, my more than all ; my Fanny : then fear not what may follow, my love, where honour calls me on, and Fanny proves the victor's recompence.

THAT charming creature miss Pitt, who brings me yours, urges by every argument my steady resolution, fortune still favours us in her acquaintance, the luckiest hit that could have befallen us. My Fanny, make her sure to you ; my efforts all may fail, when she may prove the truest friend to both, may gain intelligence unknown to thee, and in thy absence prove a solace to my woes, from what I may learn of thee by her means.

I WILL not take a last farewell of thee, hoping to meet thee with success to-morrow ; and heartily glad I am for the delay of this one day, so unexpectedly obtained for us, as she says ; as also, that I

was not set out upon my expedition before she came, which would have prevented my receipt of those lines from you, which I shall ever retain next my heart :—for my dearest Fanny, let whatever mischief attend my undertaking, I shall now fall content, since I have the happy assurances from yourself, of my charming Fanny's affection for her

GEO. HERVEY.

Miss F A N N Y G R A H A M, to Miss
P I T T.

9th Oct. 1729.

HOW happy are you, dear miss, who are not at present involved in like calamities with myself; yet pleased I am that you was once so, whereby you will more easily learn how to pity me.

I PROMISED you a punctual account of my journey, and of all that should befall me in it; hoping at that time, to have obliged you with the good success
of

of Mr. Hervey's enterprize, but must revert my tale to his misfortune.

DEAR miss, we were not above eight miles from Salisbury, when Mr. Hervey with four men, rode up to the coach and stopt it. Madam, said he, behold your deliverance at hand from the confinement of an oppressive father. Before I could return the least answer, my father's head was out of the opposite window, calling out for his servants, who were all some way before the coach, and raving at them for not attending their duty better ; by which time, Mr. Hervey having opened the coach door, I had leaped into his arms, and he was placing me upon a spare horse he had brought for me, with a side-saddle.

My father, black with rage, leaped after me, and with one blow of his cane almost stunned Mr. Hervey : who soon recovering, ordered one of his men to ride off with me, and leave him to his own fate, with the rest of his attendants.

This the fellow did, and away we went like lightning; but by this time, my father's servants being come up, I left them under a general engagement, without the least prospect on either side, who would obtain the victory.

I MADE an halt at a considerable distance, unable to proceed farther than I could well descry to whom the victory would incline. I saw a flash, and Mr. Hervey fall; when no ways doubting, but his wound was mortal; nature, for his sake, forced me back again to the scene of slaughter, unable to fly, and leave him weltering in his gore, as my fancy had represented him. Not a man on both sides but I found wounded, except my father, but as for Mr. Hervey, he bled so much, that despairing of his life, I had not the least thought of my own liberty, which I still might most certainly have regained, had I still aimed at it; but leaping from my horse, and clapping my cheek to his, I watered his face with my tears; nor could I have with-
drawn

drawn myself from him to have prevented instant destruction.

He told me, he was wounded in the body, and intreated me to secure myself by flight, since it could be to no purpose watching a dying man. He wished me well, desiring me to fly to his mother, who he was sure for his sake, would behave to me as her own child. He was adding further, when my father seized and tore me from him, and thrusting me neck and heels into the coach, after stepping in to me, ordered the coachman to drive forwards, without the least consideration of those of either party whom he had left behind him wounded.

We almost flew over a plain we were then crossing; nor did I conceive the least hope of beholding Mr. Hervey again; but we had yet another struggle for it. The man who had first rode off with me, returning unhurt, followed our coach full speed, vowing he would shoot the driver from his box unless he stopt

immediately. The fellow trembling obey'd him ; when turning up to the door he opened it, demanding me out of it ; to which I would readily have consented, but for my father's withholding me. This the fellow observing, he so cut two of my father's fingers with his hanger, that they gushed out with blood all over me.

He then quitted his hold of me, and I again escaped with my conductor to Mr. Hervey, the bleeding of whose wound having considerably abated, he was become more lively than when I left him ; but whilst I was relieving him with my best hopes of his recovery, up again came my father, which reviving the spirits of his drooping champions, they soon took the alarm for again seizing and securing me, as Mr. Hervey also gave the word to his companions for carrying me off with them ; but when it came to execution, not an horse was to be commanded on either side, they having in the confusion dispersed themselves all over the common.

My

My father and his men then taking advantage of the absence of two of Mr. Hervey's party, who were gone for the horses, secured me, and again confining me to the coach, notwithstanding my extremest outcries, drove away with me, while the poor wounded Hervey, incapable of affording me assistance, sat a sad spectator of my departure; so that my ignorance of what is now become of him, or whether his wound is mortal or not, creates me the acutest anguish.

If I can have the least opportunity of writing again before I leave England, in case my father should continue his resolution of sending me abroad, you may be assured of hearing from me; but how, or where you can inform yourself of the state of my dear Mr. Hervey, I can offer you no information; tho' I hope if I should be blessed with his recovery, you will soon either see or hear from him.

If

If it proves but feasible for me to continue a correspondence with you in my recluse state, pray inform me of every thing you can hear from home relative to our family, and be punctual in your intelligence to Mr. Hervey of every thing you hear from me ; as also in whatever he may have to transmit to me through your means ; for I imagine it may not be so proper for him to write to me himself, lest his hand should create suspicion.

HAVING fatigued you with my tedious narrative, give me leave to conclude myself,

Dear miss,

Your most disconsolate servant,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT.

My dear Miss Pitt,

17th Oct. 1729.

MY father hath put me on board the Rebecca, bound for Cadiz, which I am told is in Spain; but I have not seen him these four days. I asked the captain the other day, how he was to dispose of me when he arrived? who replied, that my father had consigned me to one Iscardo, a merchant there; but what orders he might have sent him about me, he knew not.

THESE are hard lines, for an only child to be thus tossed about the world in misery, who might to her parents honour, and her own delight and satisfaction, have been better provided for at home, had it not been for an obstinate and perverse father; but as he gained most of his lofty and despotick airs in Spain, I
sup-

suppose I shall be in the center of them when I arrive there.

THIS morning, my dear, as I was musing by myself in the cabin, what should I cast my eye upon but an inkhorn, sticking out from the pocket of a pair of breeches of the captain's which hung up there. Thou knowest, my dear, I am a ready scribe; nor could I now neglect the opportunity of exercising my talents that way. Having therefore before observed from whence the captain had occasionally taken his paper, I seized the implements, and went to work with them, desirous of writing to you whilst I am able, no one knowing how long that may be.

I WAS just now obliged to break off, upon the coming in of the captain, who stopt me short, by,--How now miss? That is not an allowable act; I have orders against it. Nay, captain, said I, it was only for my amusement in your absence, having nothing else to do; but, I have
done,

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done ; and then I put my paper in my pocket ; but no sooner is his back turned, than I take it out again, only to subscribe myself,

Your abandoned friend,

F. GRAHAM.

PRAY, if you can find out Mr. Hervey, let him see you as from me, with every compliment you can make on my behalf.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT at ———

My dear,

19th Oct. 1729.

WE are still wind-bound, and tho' it cost me a crown for a fee to a sailor, who carried the mate on shore yesterday, to privately convey my last to the post-house, I cannot omit this as the only opportunity I may have of sending to implore your pity and future assistance, to

Dear miss,

Your most obliged

F. GRAHAM.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT at —

My dear miss Pitt,

Cadiz, 25th Nov, 1729.

I HAVE been here but few days, and am under the custody of one who was formerly my father's intimate here, and with whom he corresponded whilst in business at London; but find myself little more my own mistress than at home.

I AM amongst a knot of people, who no more understand what I say, (save Mr. Iscardo's family, who speak and write English fluently) than I can comprehend them; but I am comforted by the hopes of soon attaining the Spanish, when I shall be enlisted amongst the sisterhood, I am too surely designed for.

Mr. Iscardo has three daughters, the youngest of whom tells me, she is designed for a religious house herself; nor can you conceive with what alacrity she
speaks

speaks of it ; but upon my declaring my disapprobation of that way of life, she says, they can't compel me to it. My father, it is true, she says, may put me a probationer there ; but I have a year or two to pass my noviciate in, before I can be admitted to renounce the world, and take the vow upon me ; so that possibly my father may die, or somewhat at last happen to release me before I am fixed for life.

Miss has asked her father leave for me to stay to be entered with her ; but he having positive orders from my father for his behaviour, will not deviate an hair's-breadth there-from ; and last night he told me, he had been to bespeak me a place, and had made the lady abbess a present which my father had sent her. I am to go with him in a day or two to see her and the monastery, as I am informed, only upon a visit of ceremony ; but miss Maria tells me, she shall never see me at her father's house again ; so that, dear miss, whether I shall ever get an opportunity

tunity of writing to you more or not, will be very uncertain.

SURELY nothing can be more surprising, than my father's thinking to make a faint of me, by inclosing me within the walls of a nunnery; but is it not yet more astonishing, that a young lady must be led like a sheep to the slaughter, without the least opposition to the will of an imperious father? and this only because the superiority of force is against her; for to what purpose would it be for me to struggle and cry all the way I go, when go I must, as certainly as if I coveted nothing more ardently; but as miss tells me I may refuse the vow, they shall have enough to do to bring me into the humour for taking it.

I CANNOT say I would have you direct to me, till you hear farther from me; for I would not by any means have the old gentleman know, of my holding any correspondence with England; for if that was but once suspected, every letter between

tween us would be stopt, and there would be an end of all the satisfaction I have hitherto proposed to myself.

I HAVE been once or twice with miss Maria, to see a late servant of hers who is married, and lives very prettily here, and as miss is a young lady of a most compassionate disposition, if my reprieve expires not before I have wrought myself farther into her good graces, I shall still live in hopes of making a friend of this young woman through her means, that my letters may pass through her hands, and under her name. This, I say, wants but time to perfect, which once completed, I shall still enjoy a moderate share of happiness within that circuit I am permitted to seek it in; nor doubt I much of miss Maria's consenting to it, from her readiness to put this into the post for you. I long to hear from Mr. Hervey, and must do so till I can somehow settle a method of uninterrupted intercourse with England.

If I am able, you shall hear from me again, so soon as ever I can inform you how to direct for me with security; in the mean time, dear miss, accept of my acknowledgments for the trouble you take on my account, which will heap indispensable obligations upon, dear miss,

Your true servant,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT at —

20th Dec. 1729.

O H! my dearest Miss, long looked for is come at last. I have been confined to my convent about a week, and to my particular cell five days, and to my bed three of them, and now write this with my pencil. I have had abundance of care taken for my recovery; but hope it will be to no purpose; that I may attain the end of my sufferings, is all my hope, my aim, and comfort.

I

I CANNOT say from any thing I have yet observed, but I might live satisfactorily enough here, was there no such man as Mr. Hervey in England. I break off here, one of my sisters is coming.

24th Dec.

I AM growing better in spite of my own heart, am nicely managed, by order of our common mother, and every one seems striving to render my confinement agreeable to me. I have not been at mattins yet, not being able; nor know I how early rising may agree with me; but so soon as I am capable of quitting my chamber I must go.

30th Dec.

BEING much worse than I was, I am in hopes I am going into a consumption, and believe the lady abbess thinks me in a dangerous condition; for yesterday, whilst I was on the rack of torture with my head and stomach, she had the charity to send the father confessor to me.

He

He had never appeared to me before, lest I should have rejected his office ; but believing I then looked upon myself to be in a bad way, he attacked me : for I find it matters not how a person lives, so he dies but in their faith ; all will then be safe and easy.

To be plain, I but little liked the man, and so much less his demands upon me, that returning him but few answers, and those such as convinced him I was an heretick, he told me, after much fruitless pains taken with me, he committed me over to Satan ; assuring me that my principles were much properer to be scrutinized before the holy tribunal of the inquisition than by him ; but his charity prompting him to consult the welfare of my soul, he would call upon me again, in hopes of convincing me of my errors.

I TOLD him, as he knew where to find me, he might act as he pleased ; but I had not lived to my years like an heathen ;
my

my principles were already established, and that unalterably; so that he might lose what time he pleased with me, I was in very little danger of crediting whatever himself or his master could urge to me, contradictory to my received opinion.

5th Jan.

I SCARCE know what I am about, my dear miss; for I heard this morning that this was the sixteenth of January; but am sure they deceive me, unless I have been some days in a trance; for I have kept as near reckoning as possible, and can never be so greatly deceived. They tell me indeed, that so it is here, then so in my mind must it be every where; but these catholicks are wretched strange people, and have always some incredible mystery to cram down the throats of us protestants, as real verities: so much as this I have observed in my two conferences with the fryer, that every syllable of my argument is false, because it's false; and his own true, because it's true; which if his pupils can once digest, they are sound catholicks.

My

My dear miss,

18th Jan.

I FIND myself at the mouth of a wasp's nest, with the whole family by turns buzzing about my ears ; nor avails it aught to me, that I frequently repulse them ; for their numbers supplying a fresh succession, I am never disengaged from some of them ; till finding but little good to be made of me, and that I am too obstinate to be wrought upon, comes the old hornet, my priest, and he concludes the scene with me. It would do thee good, my dear miss, to see how we behave to each other ; for I look with a very contemptuous air both on himself and his doctrine ; and this day I asked him, whether he intended I should believe him, when he was urging to me some parts of the authority of his holiness. He demanded, what reason I could have to doubt it ? To which I replied, because I could not be fool enough to imagine he credited himself ; allowing at the same time, that if he did, he was a man of the profoundest faith I had ever met

met with. I own, I expected he would have fallen into a most egregious passion with me, and have threatened me very severely; but laying one of his brawny hands upon mine, and with the other chucking me under the chin, I love thee, my dear, said he (squeezing my hand in his left, and drawing his right down my bosom, to my very lap) for thy spirit; nor wilt thou make a faint catholick, when once thou hast imbibed the truth, which it should be his part, he said, to lead me into, for the benefit of my poor soul.

I DID not tell him so, my dear, but had he read his bible, he would have found that a man can't serve two masters; and as he must have been pampering up his enormous paunch for many years, to the size of four ordinary men, the service he had bestowed on that, I was well satisfied, could have left him but little spare time for his soul's affairs.

20th Jan.

I AM become acquainted with miss Lascells, an Irish lady and a catholic, in our house, who is to take the vow a few months hence. She makes nothing of it; for she says, her friends can't well provide for her at home, and so she came hither very willingly; nor has she other intent but of spending her life here, thinking it a very good provision for her. I replied, in a surprise at the easy manner of her mentioning her captivity, adding, that nothing could appear so irksome to me, as to be debarred the society of mankind. Miss set up such a laugh as confounded me. Bless me! miss, said I, are we not formed and designed for far other purposes, than to be mewed up like chickens in a coop here, a number of women of us only together, without the least society with the other sex, save what we have with the father confessor?

FANNY! Fanny! said she, you are but a novice yet, and know no better,
all

all is not gold that glitters. I will admit we frequent our chapel regularly, perform our other acts of devotion constantly, and maintain the abstinence and rules of our order; who then can say but we are all as chaste as the vestals? And indeed, my dear, when you come to be better acquainted with the methods of the house, you will be of opinion, we well execute the rules of it, when we behave as I have mentioned. But then child, there are other rules also, at times, to be practised, that the above may fit the lighter on us. I mean the rules of nature, the rules of mortal flesh and blood. You must be very private, in what I am about to tell you; but miss Clara and miss Massage are both now great with child; tho' not one of us knows it, or, which is the same thing, it is no longer a secret, for that is all one as if no body knew it, it can go no farther; nor do either of us, who each know the other's failings, take more notice of them, than if we were all saints; as indeed we are to all but ourselves. It is this makes the place agreeable,

able, or who would might live here for me. You'll soon find, miss, that you won't want opportunities of exerting every faculty nature has formed you with.

I TOLD her, she put me in mind of the fat fryer's behaviour to me the other day, and then related it to her. Well, said she, and how did you take it? For according to that, will he regulate his future conduct. You know the colt must be gently handled when young, to make him endure the saddle; and tho' he wriggles and winches at first, who so great as he and his rider, after a little experience of each other.

WE were interrupted by the bell to prayers; but I shall penetrate into the whole history, if I stay here much longer.

23d Jan.

HAVING an opportunity by miss Maria, who is now upon a visit to me, of sending this journal of my adventures to you; dear miss, return me an
answer

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answer to Mrs. Lopez, as I have directed in a postscript ; but above all things send some news of my dear Mr. Hervey to,

Dear miss,

Your sincere friend,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT at——

Dear miss,

Feb. 6, 1730.

SINCE I dispatched my last, I have begun another journal, which I shall transmit to you by the first opportunity, intreating you in the mean time to let me hear all the intelligence you possibly can from England ; especially of my dear Mr. Hervey, and if possible, see Mr. Hervey ; sound his subsisting opinion as to me ; probe it to the very bottom, miss, and let me know whether he has yet laid aside all thoughts of me. Time and absence may have weaned him from me ; nor can I

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much

much blame him for turning his thoughts from such a worthless object as myself, after the fruitless troubles, anxieties, and indignities he has sustained on my account already; tho' believe me, miss, I speak not this from my own experience, who have undergone no less for him: for be assured, the more obstacles are raised in my way to the fruition of him, with the more ardour do I persist in coming off conqueror.

My dear,

9th Feb.

MYSTERIES unravel themselves here more and more daily to me, as I become more acquainted with the sisterhood about me; so that the experience I gain will give me at least this advantage over you ladies at large, that I shall know more of the world soon, than I should ever have been mistress of without travelling. — Would you think it, my dear? one of my sister faints hath just increased our number by the oddest accident you ever heard of. It is surprising, how nature will operate in these warm countries, nor
am

am I under half the difficulty I used to be, about the propagation of our species; nay, can't say how long it may be, ere I may be in a breeding condition myself: for tho' we are all women here, yet there is some hidden quality I find in the air, or whatever else it is within our walls, that works amazing effects upon human bodies.

THE first symptoms they are seized with are perpetual sicknesses, puking, fainting, paleness, want of appetite, and a nausea, which is succeeded by certain signs of a tympany, which last several months upon them, till arriving at a crisis, they are all on a sudden reduced again both to their strength, shape, and complexion, most surprisingly.

UPON the first relation of this disorder from miss Lascells, I supposed it might have been like what we call the jail distemper in England, and that it had proceeded from a similar cause, and that such as had once got it over, would no

more have been subject to it; but she tells me, they are liable to frequent returns; till arrived at a certain age, when it never troubles them more. I am obliged to go to supper, and must abruptly break off here.

My dear miss,

10th Feb.

I SHALL now resume my subject on the increase of our house and the cause of it, as miss Lascells, who is my chamber-fellow assures me. Miss Prado, to whom this accident hath happened, is a young lady descended from one of the grandees of this country, by a younger branch of the family; with whom, I understand it is much easier to dispose of a daughter than in England, where unless she has a fortune, she is for the most part condemned to perpetual virginity in her father's house, till becoming an old maiden, upon the dispersion of her father's effects, she is commonly taken into the keeping of some of the flourishing shoots of her relations, as a necessary woman in the family; but in this country,

try, all the supernumerary females are confined in the manner I am, to pray for the souls of the rest of their relatives.

It seems about two years ago, a young but slovenly wench was taken into our house, as a helper under the cook, a sort of scullion as she might be called, who was employed in all the slavish drudgery of the kitchen; by what means I know not, but this young lady, miss Prado, took Doria (as the wench was called) to her bed one night; whether she ever repeated it or not, I can't say; but from that time miss Prado felt several symptoms of the disorder of the convent, under which she continued till last night, and is now mother of as fine a young nun, as you shall see in a summer's day: so that, my dear, it is not the seclusion of us from the males, you see, that can prevent the continuation of the species: for the woman whom nature hath not formed barren, tho' she were inclosed in an egg-shell, will find some means or other of exhibiting her fertility.

I CAN assure you this affair makes no small whisper amongst us, and I presume in a day or two we shall hear how she and the little lady will come off.

13th Feb.

THIS morning arrived the father confessor, when the lady abbess, who by the by is a sad old crab, closeted him near an hour in private; from whence he proceeded to miss Prado's chamber to confess her, and from thence to Doria for confession likewise; but I hear it rumored about, that in consideration of miss's youth, and for that she was deceived by Doria, her penance amounts but to two hundred ave's, upon her bare knees, and a two day's severe fast: but poor Doria is condemned to wear a great iron chain about her neck for three days, and to be dismissed from her employment, under solemn protestation never more to encroach upon the patrimony of the church again; nor would it have ended here, but for the good father's excess of humanity,

humanity, and the regret with which he must have exposed so young a member of the convent ; for as to Doria, he had no mercy for her in his own mind, but for the lady's sake. However, the father having reduced all to peace again, has wiped away the stain from the parties, and made as pious a lady of miss, as any of us all. The child is sent to nurse out of the house, lest the sight of it might prove contagious here, and all is as hush as ever.

My dear miss,

18th Feb.

BEING a stranger to what is transacting in the busy world, my little intelligences can arise only from occurrences within our own walls ; but as you made me promise to send you word, as often as possible, of whatever happened, I hope you will excuse my rough sketches, which I transmit by way of journal, setting them down from day to day, as I can pick up materials. I hope you have by this time received my last ; and let me assure you, miss, my time passes very sluggishly,

suggisly, till I can hope to be blessed with an answer from you, which I shall receive as the greatest blessing that has befallen me since I have been immured in this confinement.

LAST night, my dear, or rather about two o'clock in the morning, our whole house was alarmed by one of our sisters, who by moon-light saw a man at her window; and this she was so positive of, that she raised not only her own chamber, (for you must know, my dear, that we lie many of us in one large chamber, tho' each in separate beds for fear of miss Prado's accident) but the whole house was stirring immediately; and for my part, I concluded, that had the proper eye beheld this surprising animal, there had not happened half the row about it, that there did; but pronounced this terrified lady not to have been in the secret.

THE lady abbess pretended to be affrighted out of her little wits, and the rest
of

of us, from her example, which we copied as near as we could, were all ready to fall into fits, as if we were really, my dear, as shock'd at the thoughts of such a terrible creature amongst us, as she seemed to be: but, my dear, the grimace made me quite sick of the scene, when each of us was already satisfied in her own conscience, that no one intercourse on earth could have been so acceptable to each individual, as the very thing we expressed such concern for avoiding.

I N short, we lay down no more all night, each of us being peculiarly nice in examining the affrighted lady, as to what sort of a man he was, in every article of his colour, height, size, and twenty other things, in hopes of discovering some interest of our own in him; but the shadow of this amazing phenomenon was all we could make out from her story; so that we were still left in the dark, which of us could apply his visit to herself: but having searched the house very narrowly, and hearing or
seeing

seeing no more of this savage monster, we are this evening all pretty well composed again.

24th Feb.

THE fat doctor hath set upon me with the force of a lion in his doctrine; but with the gentleness of a lamb in his practice, to-day. He surprised me at a piece of needlework, when I did not expect him, and sitting down close by me, I was about to have risen. My pretty Englishwoman, said he, laying his hand upon my knee, to prevent my rising as he pretended, I am come for another conference with you upon the serious topick of religion; then turning up his eyes till I had lost sight of the balls; what an happy man shall I be, said he, when once I have made a true catholick of you! Nor shall I despair of it; for I observe such a pregnancy of genius in you, that I never met with a soil better adapted for producing a plentiful harvest, from the seeds of truth I shall implant in you.

He

HE then expatiated on several articles of our former discourses, and particularly upon confession, which he urged me to make freely to him; insisting that I could never be a good Christian till I had so done; it being his business to distinguish for me between venial and damnable sins, and to apply proper remedies in time to prevent their ill effects.

I REPLIED, that confession to mankind, being a thing I had never been accustomed to, I was at a loss to know how either to begin, or go through with it; and besides, I could apprehend no other than a most consummate boldness in a young lady, to lay open to a man not only her actions, but her very thoughts too (some of which in her own judgment might be criminal;) it had something methought so confident, that I could not endure the thoughts of it.

I DOUBT not but he conceived me to be somewhat inclining to him, by his draw-

drawing his chair still nearer to me, even so as to have secured my knees between his own, as he sat fronting me; then taking my hand in his, my dear child, said he, for such you are to me your ghostly father, let me instruct thee how to form thy confession. As to the common frailties of womankind, I take it for granted, you have not passed your time hitherto without them. I never had more a mind in my life to have been snappish with any one, than I now had with this old hypocrite; and was just snatching away my hand, and forcing myself from his paws; but a thought took me, that I would sit and see the end of it, and by a feigned compliance discover if possible whereto his discourse tended; so that I replied, I could not say that I had a greater exemption from common failings to plead, than other people. You have fibbed, said he (leering in my face) I know you have. Well, well, you are sorry, and I forgive you. You have been very naughty, my dear child, added he, when you have seen the young men,

men, and have had such wanton thoughts in your heart (drawling it out, and eying me ready to pierce me through) in their company, as you are ashamed to mention. Yes, I see you have, I see you have. Nay, you have even delighted to be kissed by them. Ay, ay, so I have, say. For I read it in your eyes; but modesty had better blush here, than you carry these sins to the grave with you. Well, added he, shall we go a step farther? My dear child, you have,—no,—you have not; but you could have wished, to have enjoyed a young man sometimes. He grew by this time so impertinent with his hands, that I could scarce contain myself within bounds; but recalling my resolution, I submitted. He then casting aside my veil, and bareing my breast, I could not refrain from asking what he meant? Ay, ay, said he, I thought I should bring you to the use of your speech presently. Nay, I only would feel whether what I suspected has really happened; for I can presently tell by examination. I put a force upon myself to let him handle me, which

which point having gained, and then judging me for his purpose, he caught me in his arms, and offering to be rude with me; no, Sir, said I, you are an holy man, and shall not be made otherwise by me, I can assure you. Why? my dear child, said he, these little transports of love must be sustained by persons in my habit, or we should never be able to dictate upon the subject to others; besides, what I would urge, and you comply with, being the act of charity and brotherly kindness, and not the rage of brutal passion, is absolutely in itself inoffensive, and salutary to us both. It will cherish a good harmony between us, and before I leave you, should the least scruple attend your mind, I shall give you a thorough absolution, by vertue of the authority of my function; then swinging me round on a couch in my room, I was half afraid I had carried my jest too far; but whilst he stept to secure the door, I ran to the window, and calling out murder, brought the whole sisterhood about me presently.

I CALLED for the lady abbess, but could not open the door, the fryer standing with his back to it, intreating me to be silent, and to say I was taken ill at confession, and that he would not let me out till I had finish'd; but finding me peremptory for a discovery, he plucked out a poniard from his breast, and running at me vowed he would stab me; and then wounding himself, would swear I had aimed at taking his life; which not compassing, and fearing detection, I had then murdered myself.

I MUST confess to you, my dear, this terrified me; for suspecting the villain capable of any mischief, I doubted not his being as good as his word, had I opposed him: so that giving him assurances of my complying with his request, and expressing some sorrow for what I had rashly acted, he opened the door, and let in an whole drove of my pious sisters upon me at once; when I begged their pardon for giving them the disturbance;
but

but the father refusing to release me, till I had finished my confession, I was so simple, as to fancy myself stifling, for want of air; never in my life being able to endure a close confinement.

It went much against the grain with me to tell this lie; but the very looks of the father at my elbow would have carried me through any thing to have kept fair with him; not disputing, but had I aimed at the truth, his dagger would have put a stop to my proceedings.

25th Feb.

HA VING no opportunity of seeing our superiour yesterday, after my rencounter with the father; I this morning desired an audience of her, and was admitted into her dining-room, where falling upon my knees to her, O mother! said I, how unhappy am I, in being compelled, for the sake of my conscience, and of the several young ladies my sisters now in this cloister, to reveal to you a crime, which I am sorry to charge upon

a reverend father, and that, within these sacred walls devoted to piety and sobriety.

THE old lady, surprised at my preface ;
Declare to me, daughter, said she, your
grief ; for I perceive your heart is full of
it. What crime, what father do you
speak of ? O madam, said I, you well
know I was not bred up a catholick,
though ready to have received father
Amaggio's instructions, for reducing my-
self to his doctrine ; but whilst that fa-
ther should have been employed to my
edification, (and here I wept exceedingly)
he attempted the violation of my chastity ;
threw me along on a couch in the room,
and would have deflowered me, had not
my cries brought many of my sisters to
my aid ; nor would he even then let
them enter to my succour, till I had so-
lemnly engaged not to detect his villany.
I then told her of the poniard he pro-
duced, his threats to me, and my fears,
as the reason why I had disguised the
truth before the rest of my sisters ;
but added, that my conscience would not
suffer

suffer me to conceal so impious a fact from her, under whose protection I was placed by my parents.

THE good mother, rumped her brow prodigiously; demanding first, whether I had disclosed nothing but the very truth to her? And then, whether I had as yet revealed it to any one but herself? To the first, I protested I had; and to this, answered in the negative, save to one person, and that was to sister Lascells, from whom, for the sake of the good understanding I had with her, I could not retain it. Miss Lascells was then called, and examined as to what she had said of it; but she had only mentioned it to two more sisters, who confessing their divulging it to others, her ladyship soon collected from us all, that it was as yet only a secret without doors.

SHE then dismissed them all but myself, whom she now began to scrutinize as to particulars; how it began, and proceeded? I told her as I have before stated, till his clasping me in his arms; all

which she qualified, as being the gentle method of those holy men, in treating their pupils, to gain their assent and goodwill to them. What, madam, asked I, to put their hands in ladies bosoms, handle their breasts, and at the same time cast such amorous looks at them, as might only be expected from the most debauched person alive? But she imputed my suspicions, she still said, to my ignorance and want of acquaintance with their methods: for sure she was, she said, I must mistake the good father's meaning.

I THEN proceeded to his speeches, hoping I had not misunderstood them too: when she replied, that nothing was more likely for me, who was as yet but little acquainted with the Spanish tongue.

By this time, I was almost mad to be so imposed upon and trifled with, in a case of so serious a nature as this was; so that I put the question to her, whether if my understanding could not comprehend Spanish, she imagined me so defective

tive in my eye-sight also, that I could not see a dagger, and in my feeling, that I knew not when I was forcibly seized, and thrown upon a couch?

THIS being too palpable to be turned to ridicule, she replied not to my questions, but rated me severely for blabbing all I knew amongst the sisterhood. Such things, she said, were dangerous, and might set light minds upon making the experiment themselves, even upon their ghostly father, with intent to carry it to the utmost. She was the person, and the only person, who ought to have been acquainted with it; for even the whisper of such things was of the worst consequence: commanding me therefore to more privacy, she ordered me to my chamber.

27th Feb.

AMAGGIO, having weighed the adventure with himself very accurately, could not but conceive in his own mind, that the excuse I had made for him was sincere, and that I was sorry for what I had done, by my giving the affair
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another turn than he had hinted to me, and adding explanations upon his dictates for my conduct : for as yet, he had heard nothing of my having divulged the whole affair ; so that he came this day, fully prepared for renewing his attack upon me, and the first person who was ordered to attend him, was myself, who, unwilling any more to appear before him, he came up himself to my chamber.

THE sight of the man so confounded me, that I was very near falling into a swoon, and losing my senses ; but with much ado I did retain my spirits, for holding some very short conference with him.

HIS first offer of business, after several expressions of his tenderness for one he should pride himself in making a true catholick, was his offer to absolve me for the fib I had told, as he called it, at his request, at our last meeting ; and then, he said, that no more difficulties might intrude upon my conscience for the vainly

imagined crime, I was pleased to call his fatherly affection to me, and my filial compliance with his desires; he had brought with him his holiness's indulgencies, for continuing what intercourse we pleased between ourselves for the space of our whole lives, and for three years after our deaths, that it might be sure of comprehending every future act of ours.

I ASKED him, what could be the benefit to me of the indulgencies he mentioned? To quit me from all stain, and even imputation of crime, he said: for that his holiness had not only the keys of heaven, but of hell; and at his sole pleasure, could discharge from this, and commit to that, as he listed: so that the way being now cleared before us, his charity prompted him more than ever to form such an alliance with me, as might for ever redound to the benefit of my soul.

WE had some other discourse, as I sat at a distance from him; but upon his arising to put his doctrine in practice, I fled

to the door, and when I found myself safe, calling him an old villain, I left him.

I RAN directly to miss Lascell's chamber, where I repeated to her what had passed between Amaggio and me, and the name I had given him at parting, which she believed to have been the first time he had ever been so called to his face, she said, in his life before; wondering how I durst be so bold: for, my dear, said she, these men are so implicitly obeyed by us here, that let the favour they ask be what it will, or the injunction they lay upon us of a nature ever so opposite to our own inclination; yet, as we are taught from our cradles that they cannot offend, we submit with a true catholick patience; when lest the least imputation should be affixed to us by heaven, or our own fears, the salve is ready prepared by a thorough absolution, which again restores us to the purity of sucking babes: so that it is impossible we can act amiss in any compliance to their wills;

whereas, a non-compliance would but render us, even to ourselves, suspicious of an error.

How then comes it to pass, demanded I, that my whole sisterhood seemed to speak so disdainfully of Amaggio's act as they did upon my impeachment of him? Because, replied she, you divulged it: for that, being contrary to the good man's intent, was judged criminal; nor ought whatever passes at confession, to be repeated more. Nay, even the confessor himself durst not divulge it. No, no, miss said I, we may be sure of his silence for his own reputation; and therefore you ought to have been also as private, replied she, for yours: for such an holy man's character is not to be publicly impeached; and though we in this house know better than to discredit you; was you but to hint at such a thing against his cloth in the city, you might be clapped into the inquisition for an heretick, and a falsary.

You

You have now, my dear, said I, in some measure explained my mother's severity to me upon my first accusation; but as she charged me to tell her, and only her, whatever of this nature I had to reveal, I must beg you to be private, till I have opened it to her, and then let her act as she pleases.

My dear Fanny, said miss Lascells, you had much better be silent, you will but be brow-beaten and discredited, say what you will against him. We, who are your seniors, know better; as yourself also will in time. Why, miss, demanded I, has he ever made such offers to you? I would hope, replied she, he would behave to all alike. And pray, returned I, did you comply with him? Why would I aim at drawing her into the very confession she was blaming me for, demanded she? I replied, because I should be glad to know, if he distributed his favours indiscriminately to all. Or some might have reason for complaint, she said, and

turned off the discourse. I have only time to inform you, that my ghostly father and mother have been locked up above this hour in private, where it is not disputed by the sisterhood, but all will be settled between them, upon a footing of future amity and benevolence, for the benefit of the community.

I am, dear miss, yours,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss P I T T, to Miss G R A H A M, at
Mrs. L O P E Z.

Dear miss Graham,

Feb. 8, 1729.

NOTHING in nature could have been more welcome to me than your favour of the 20th of December, continued down to the 23d of January, in the pleasing method of journalizing. Bless me! my dear Fanny, what a life are you entered into? But have a good heart, miss; your sufferings may end both sooner, and
more

more satisfactorily than with your life; and I am glad to hear you are so well provided for in your illness. But pray torture me not with the thoughts of a consumption, which by hearing no more of, I am in hopes is blown over. Now, my dear, if this proves the case, stand firm to your principles imbibed in England; nor let a father's afflictive schemes, which have already too much abridged your bodily delights, eventually contaminate that purer part of you, your soul, by the subtle artifices of that set of vermin, whose principles and interest do both lay them in the way to deceive. I think you behaved most worthy of your character in detesting his doctrines, notwithstanding every threat he can pronounce against you; but I need not employ my pen in arguments to convince or inform miss Graham, who is much more capable of instructing me.

My dear, it is impossible you can be right as to the time; there must be a mistake somewhere; nor tho' I asked

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Ms.

Mr. Thomas your cousin's son, and he the curate, can we any otherwise account for it, than as a mistake in you, or the house you are in.

LET me advise you, miss, to avoid all manner of conference with that old hornet, as you somewhere pleasantly call him; his very breath, child, is infectious; but if I judge aright of my dear Fanny, thou wilt give him as good as he brings, and stand proof against all his batteries. You perceive, by what you report to me, that a strong resolution is what they mentally commend in you. It is your easy fools, who are frightened to death at the savage stories they tell them, that they first captivate in their fetters, and then they lead them about as they list. Methinks, my dear, I have that greasy fellow (from your description of him) now before my eyes.

I AM heartily glad, child, you have secured to yourself so good a companion as the young lady you mention: for as
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in the world at large, so in your lesser community, life is not worth holding without a bosom friend ; nor is it possible in the nature of things, that they should be much multiplied : but indeed, my dear, the blessing seems not so great, for young creatures to take their confinement so cordially, as you say she does ; if through the mysteries of the place, they can there enjoy themselves, like all other reasonable creatures : nay, if the old proverb will hold, of stolen pleasures proving the sweetest, their delights must exceed those of us worldings. I smile to myself to imagine, that your society's tongues should so bely their hearts, as verbally to apply saintship to those, whom their consciences must condemn as devils.

I vow, my dear, now you come to talk so motherly about lyings-in and great bellies in your little commonwealth, you would make one's mouth water to be with you ; for I find, as miss Lascells told you, not a single faculty of

our sex can lie idle there; but have a care my dearest friend, how you engage yourself too far in the mystical part of your profession, lest you should thereby grow incapable of joys more captivating and superlative.

HAVING answered yours, I come now in my turn to give you the intelligences of old England.

YOUR mamma, before you left us, having invited me over to her house, I took the opportunity of going pretty soon, that I might furnish myself with matter for my first epistle; when who should I find there on a visit before me, but your cousin Cross; and as she knew nothing of me, or I of her, we behaved but barely complaisant to each other for a day or two, till we grew by farther conversation more familiar. I then began upon you, and your being carried off to the nunnery; mentioning you, as a very deserving young lady in my opinion, and that it was great pity no better under-

understanding could be preserved between your father and you. Miss replied, that surely I had but little acquaintance with you, to imagine you deserving. No, no, said she, her tricks (tho' she being my kinswoman, I am sorry to say so much of her) have been too notorious to admit of a palliation; as first, she run away after a vicious fellow, who was within a thought of debauching her, and then made off with another, as vile an hypocrite as lives; one who fed her up with vain fancies of marriage, till he should provide himself with a proper opportunity of prostituting her to his will; and then, would not her father have taken her in, she must have been cast upon the publick. Nay, after my uncle had repossessed himself of her, she even made another elopement; and after all this, when her father would have provided a suitable match for her, did she not refuse it? violently refuse it? In my opinion therefore, miss, she is best provided for where she is, unless she would humble herself to my uncle; in which case,

case, I myself would undertake to procure her release, upon her promise to marry Mr. Harrison.

I MADE as if all but the latter part of your history was new to me ; but still pitying you very much, and wondering that your father would not hear the proposals of the gentleman, who last addressed you ; giving it as my sentiments, that had he proved but of a reasonable good character, and in the least fit for your husband, I should have thought it better for your father to have yielded somewhat to your will, and have married you to him, at once.

ALL the powers forbid it ! said miss Cross : for ever, whilst I live, shall I oppose it : nay, indeed it was from motives arising from me, that my uncle denied him an audience. He is one of the most silver-tongued knaves in nature, and so subtle and artful, that he might have subdued my uncle's resolution, and thereby have introduced a scandal

scandal upon our whole family. No, madam, added she, it was not only my duty to give my uncle all the insight I was able into the man, but my own interest in particular, to prevent his union with so near a relative of myself?

Not being able to conceive, but she must be speaking, and myself thinking, of different people; I begged to know the name of the gentleman she held in such disesteem? She replied, Hervey. What will not a woman do, thinks I, to avoid disappointment in love; but I had enough of your worthy cousin, at a single hearing. All which, my dear, but confirming your report, and proclaiming the injustice done you, in stronger terms than I could have conceived before, hath so rivetted me to your future interest, that you may command my whole power for your service. Nay, I attempted to mention Mr. Hervey to your papa the next day, who called him Irishman, fortune-hunter, and other opprobrious names; nor would he bear the
repe-

repetition of his name ; notwithstanding which, I replied, that was I a father, I would give such a man a hearing, when if he proved contrary to what he had been represented to me, he might still prove no unacceptable match for my daughter ; but he said, his information was genuine, and from one who wished you too well to deceive him ; nor would he permit me farther to argue on that head.

HAVING given you, dear miss, a detail of what hath passed in your own family, I take leave to remind you of Mr. Hervey ; who, after you left him, was by those of his own party conveyed to Salisbury, where he lay under very slight hopes of recovery for above a month ; having in that time had two slugs extracted from his wound. I visited him twice a week all the time, till he was out of danger ; and then I set out for your father's ; but, my dear, thy darts were of more dangerous consequence to him, than the enemies balls. It was the
loss

loss of thee excited his anguish, far more than his own bodily pains could, or even death itself. O Fanny! thou, if ever woman was so, art truly blest in the love of that valuable man; nor observed I the least abatement of his affection; which he plainly told me one day, would never change, he was certain, tho' he should be assured of never beholding you more: nay, should fate call you to a better abode than this earth, and more deserving of you; still would his fancy follow you thither, nor ever admit the intrusion of a rival in his affection.

He imputed the cause of his miscarriage with your father to miss Cross, and related to me the many contrivances she had formed for disuniting his heart from you; but added, that he penetrated her designs too easily to give credit to her reports; protesting, that she had sunk herself so low in his esteem, by the ungenerous proceedings she had been guilty of, that the sight of an asp was more agreeable to him; nor should he ever
more

more think upon her, but with the utmost contempt and disdain.

AT my return from your father's, I missed Mr. Hervey from his lodgings, nor have I ever since been able to hear a word of him, or from him. I have used many means to gain a knowledge of him, both at his mother's, and elsewhere; but all my attempts have been ineffectual: so that at present I can say no more of him, but that an heart so true as his can never wander from my dear miss Graham. Pray let me hear from you as often as possible, and send me all the news you can; as nothing from you, my dear, can ever prove unacceptable to

Your sincere friend and servant,

MARY PITT.

Miss

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT.

1st March.

WE have had a burial of one of our sisters here, who was greatly suspected to have died in labour; but we juniors are not as yet fully let into the knowledge of all the mysteries of the craft. You would have been greatly pleased at our funeral procession, each with a taper in her hand; but the best of all was the funeral oration, in which were heaped together by the orator, every virtue that could minister the most distant ornament to the sex, merely as a panegyrick upon this most pious, chaste, and exemplary lady. Nay, the grand joke was, that not a sister but wept and sighed, in testimony of the verity of his assertion: so peculiarly exact are we in carrying on the shew of sanctity amongst us.

THERE was a new sister admitted yesterday; so that now I am no longer the junior

nior of the house, nor will many months more pass, before I am admitted to further benefits.

Miss Pitt, my dear miss Pitt,

3d March.

I As verily thought, as ever I did in my life, that I had seen Mr. Hervey go by our grate this morning ; but methought he looked more pale than usual. I hope he is not dead, and that what I saw was not his apparition. I shall no more enjoy myself, till I hear how it goes with him. I write, and write on, dear miss, in hopes of an answer from you ; but none arrives to cheer me, and keep up my heart under my afflictions.

Miss,

11th March.

I T is an amazing thing to me, that I should not receive yours, (dated as plainly the 18th February, 1729, as ever I saw any thing in all my life) till this morning, it must have had a much longer passage than I had. I have now
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F A N N Y. 67

an opportunity of just mentioning this, before I close the letter I was sending to you; as for yours, I will answer it in my next. Heaven preserve Mr. Hervey. I have ominous thoughts with regard to my seeing him the other day. Pray inform me of all you can; my messenger stays. I am, dear miss,

Your obliged friend,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT.

O my dearest miss Pitt!

March 13, 1729.

I AM so full of joy, that I cannot contain it. I shall rave with it; and all my sisters take me to be mad already: my dear, I sing about the house like a canary-bird; fly from place to place like a lark; ever restless and on the wing; nor know I where, or how to fix upon

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a serious reflection. Would it not half craze a more steady mind than mine, child, to have received a line from the man one loves? Him whom I could almost have affirmed to have been dead, to have been lost to me for ever? But then, such a letter, my dear, as might revive the vigour of fifteen in the grey head; much less is mine able to support the rapture I have been in, ever since the receipt of it.

I DON'T wonder now, that your attempts for recovering him were vain. My dear, he has been at Cadiz these five weeks; but never found me out till yesterday, he says. O, the dear man! I will enclose a copy of his letter in mine to you, for every beauty of it would be lost in relating only the substance of it.

PRAY, miss, mind how he begins, and send me your opinion about it. Read it over several times; you must indeed, my dear, to take in the whole compass of his thought, at penning it. I must
own,

own, his is one of the sweetest manners of writing, I ever met with; but let me have the full scope of your thoughts upon it.

I HAD a thousand things to have added; questions to have asked, and relations to have given you; but, my dear, I am under such agitation of spirit, that I can only add how much I am engaged to my dear miss Pitt.

Yours,

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss
FANNY GRAHAM.

March 13, 1730.

HOW many pensive walks have I taken, within the five weeks of my residence at Cadiz, my ever blooming Fanny; but for the sight, or even the knowledge, where to fix the guardian of my heart; till propitious heaven, lest I should

should despair, conducted me to that grate, where the rays of thy dear face darting refulgent brightness on my senses, dismay'd me from the attempt of speaking to my soul's residence, left a lady, then interposing between us, should have been witness of my extasy, and so subverted my future hopes of that rapturous vision; but having now found a means of conveying this to my lovely Fanny; O! let my charmer appoint me what moment I may again be blest with her appearance there alone, that my senses may severally feast themselves on that elegance, which, by the gods, is held too exquisite for poor mortals to behold! My life, believe me, as I ever have been, ever to be, the most humble admirer of every excellence, in thee combined. I hope for the fruition of them, and am

Your incessant admirer,

GEO. HERVEY.

Miss

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE
HERVEY, Esq;

March 13, 1730.

ACCEPT, dear Sir, my gratefulest acknowledgments for this instance, added to the accumulated ties I am bound by, to be for ever yours. What gladness must have filled my heart, at the bare thoughts of Mr. Hervey's still enduring affection for me! but to receive the certainty of it under his own hand and seal, transported me almost to bliss immortal, past conception by the utmost stretch of thought; much less expressible by the most tender and affectionate language. Let not the towering flights of my soaring fancy carry me from earth, to draw thee after me; but rather let me speed to name the spot, the hour, the instant I may be superlatively happy. At six in the morning, precisely, at the grate. We shall then be come from mattins; there let me afresh recruit my almost exhausted spirits (spent
to

to the dregs by our long separation) for still fresh woes, if such are still in store for me. I am ever thine,

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss
FANNY GRAHAM.

14th March.

WAS ever destiny so opposite, my dear Fanny, as mine, to every dawn of my happiness!—Curst intervention! chilling cloud! which screened the splendor of my Fanny from me. Nature sure forms defect, to fully beauty; whilst (ever opposites) they cross each other; else, why that hag, unmeet for human joys, impertinently sent to spoil our happiness! Are there no locks and bars for the restraint of worthless objects, in love's armoury? That they at least, whom providence design'd rather to extirpate than excite the tender passion, might be secured from interposing between those, who are form'd for love, and finish'd for delight.

My

My dear, I'm raging at the disappointment; but trust, my Fanny still will condescend to issue her command for another interview; and O! let all the world, in stupor wrapt, be lock'd in Morpheus's fetters, except my Fanny, and

Her extatick adorer,

GEO. HERVEY.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE
HERVEY, Esq;

Dear Mr. Hervey,

15th March.

YOU acted exceedingly prudent in not taking notice of me before my companions; one or other of whom, being the seniors of the house, are ever intruding themselves upon us young ones, if they see us but moving towards the grate; for being past pleasing conceptions of their own, their delight centers in the frustration of our views: so that it is

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very

very seldom we can steal toward the grate, but some of them, like hawks, intent upon their prey, dart after us, to prevent our enjoyment of it; as the sister of yesterday did. These trials we must endure; it is enough for me to know you live, and are so near me: but if fate proves propitious to my wishes, to-morrow's light shall place me there again, and I hope to better purpose than we last attended; but not a word, should any envious sister, marking my steps, pursue me thither. I wonder how you met with this instrument, so well adapted for managing our correspondence. I hope she is trusty, nor doubt I much of it, by her manner of conveying yours to my hands: for the first you sent me, she just shewed me in her hand as I passed by her, in my solitary morning's walk, whilst she was weeding some flowers on a border; but no sooner was she certain I had remarked it, than depositing it under a little tuft, she went away and left it. Curiosity, you will not doubt, excited my desire to know the mystery; but it had almost

almost cost me my life: for on sight of your hand, I could scarce sustain my body upright; such a trembling seized my every joint, for fear of a detection, that I was very near affording the opportunity I so much dreaded, by falling insensible on the ground, with your letter unopened in my hand.

I STRUGGLED hard to quit the garden, and fled to my chamber. What happened there, I need not describe to Mr. Hervey, himself so fired at aught my hand affords him. I then wrote you my answer, which I disposed in the same place, in sight of the old woman, who, upon my retiring, secured it; and thus is the method of our correspondence settled.

WHATEVER you may in particular have to say to me, bring it with you in writing, lest our discourse should be interrupted; as possibly I may, what I have to say to you: for we cannot assure ourselves of a single moment in absolute privacy at the grate. My best wishes

shall ever attend you, Sir, whilst I remain

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss
GRAHAM.

17th March.

WHAT a deluge of miseries, my dear Fanny, will a single gale of thy breath chase away! what an heaven enjoyed I in the presence of my Fanny yesterday! The transition was inexpressible, from the horrors that have for months surrounded me, to the most perfect severity imaginable: but O! my Fanny, those joys are but for a taste, the happiness is too exquisite to be enduring; yet never can my weather-beaten frame find rest, save on thy bosom. What, shall we never be united, Fanny? There's frenzy in the thought; we shall, we shall my dear; nor shall my brain submit to free repose, till it has sketch'd out how to make thee mine. Tell me then, Fanny,

when I shall again enjoy thee at the grate.
 Shall I turn beggar to receive thy alms
 there? What shall I do, to render my-
 self unsuspected, whilst I may, fearless of
 thy danger, stand ravish'd with thy looks,
 thy speeches to me? For never shall I
 rest, till by some bold stroke, I am in
 full possession of thee. Return then,
 dearest Fanny, a line of consolation, to

Your most sincere

GEO. HERVEY.

MISS FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE
 HERVEY, Esq;

18th March.

THAT you love me, Mr. Hervey, I
 will not dispute; for what else can
 have subjected you to the many dangers
 and distresses you suffered in England?
 What else can have withdrawn you from
 your native shore, to lead a fugitive life
 in a foreign country, unknown to every
 creature in it, till your sedulity found me

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here?

here? What else can cause your present anxiety, and your present difficulties, I say, but the love of me? How ungrateful then should I prove, did I not on my part exert my every faculty towards your satisfaction. I long no less, my dear Mr. Hervey, for the freedom of your society, than you for mine; but how to compass it, is the sole question. Your last assures me, you will possess me by some bold stroke. I fear, a rash act will but rather retard than accelerate our union; and possibly by the most disagreeable means to us both: for force will little avail you here, nor answer any other end, than to expose yourself to every arm against you, for infringing upon the liberties of a religious society. Dear Sir, I have almost thought, till I can think no more, of ladders, ropes, and even airy conveyances to you; but when I have flattered myself with their approach to perfection, my spirits flag, and down I sink into the bottomless pit of impossibility. Do you then, Sir, exert your talents; a manly genius may enterprize great things, above
the

the stretch of my capacity; but take this into the account, dear Sir, that whatever Mr. Hervey's steady judgment shall propose, shall at all hazards be prosecuted by his ever ready,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss PITT, to Miss GRAHAM.

My dear miss,

14th March.

I JUST received your journal of March the 1st, continued to the 11th; and tho' my last was long in reaching you, surely yours must have flown to me; for it could never travel fairly by sea and land, so far in three days: it is therefore apparent to me, you must not know how time passes in Spain: for I am positive Wing's almanack must be right, because every body I have asked about it says he is so, and that those of Ryder, the London, and Poor Robin, all agree perfectly with it. Pray make inquiry of

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some-

somebody without the walls of your convent, for I mistrust the mistake to happen within-doors, for want of more communication with the world.

I vow, my dear Fanny, you have so many merry scenes in your house, as give me the highest relish for your way of life; and could one but relinquish it at pleasure, I should be prompted to seek a place with you for a while, to give me a more extensive knowledge of mankind. What a farce do you mention in the funeral oration, for the virgin sister who died in child-bed? It is both amazing to the understanding, and to the thought most impious and shocking, that persons separated for, and professing sanctity, should thus, not only trifle with mankind, but abuse their Maker too.

I COME now to give you joy of your advancement in the house, from every step of which, as your own understanding may gain enlargement, so I am in hope of farther discoveries from you.

DE-

DEJECT not yourself, my dear friend, with meer fancies and chimeras, about visions and apparitions, which may prove as truly prejudicial to your health, as if they were real : for tho' I have not hitherto been able to find Mr. Hervey's residence ; yet, as he was purely recovered, and out of danger from his wound before I left him ; how many occasions may have withdrawn him to different parts of the kingdom, on his own private affairs, for a time ? So that his writing to me, or calling, may either be inconvenient, or impracticable ; but I doubt not his return to our parts soon, if only for procuring intelligence of you from me.

I HAVE a piece of news to tell you, my dear, how acceptable I know not ; but your cousin Crofs has been some time married, as your mamma informs me by a line yesterday ; now to whom can my dearest Fanny imagine ? I know thou art upon the rack to know who it

is ; nor can I make a farther discovery to you, than that it is to one Tom Gosselin, your late maid Hannah's brother, who your mamma says was sent with a letter from Mr. Hervey to her a good while ago. What it might contain no one knew, but him and her ; however, Tom has since been at your father's, and told his sister, that his wife cried so upon the receipt of it, that both himself and her own servants in the kitchen, were surprised at her lamentations, which they could very plainly distinguish from her own chamber.

SHE continued her moans, Tom said, for near two hours ; and then coming down into the kitchen, he asked her if she would please to send any answer back by him, to which she replied, not that day ; but ordered him to wait till morning.

IN the evening, she sent for him to her chamber, where she demanded several questions of him, relative to Mr. Hervey ;

to

to all which Tom answering dubiously ; Thou art, said she, the truest fellow to thy trust, I have ever met with. Couldst thou be as true and faithful to a wife if thou hadst one ? To this, Tom answered affirmatively ; she then taking him by the hand, and kissing him, said, Thou then art the man for me ; the rest of the world are blind, and stupid creatures. Can you love me Tom ? He should ever do so, he replied, were she his wife ; but such a fine lady as she would not condescend to take up with a poor country lad like himself, he was very sure. If she could imagine he would misuse her, it was true, she could not, she said ; but could he be but half so faithful to her when an husband, as he had ever shewn himself to his employers, she should value him above all mankind, whose hearts were too treacherous to be received into her confidence.

POOR Tom told his sister he was so confounded, as neither to be able to speak or stir ; till miss demanding whether the affection she had shewn him did
not

not demand some return? He plucked up his courage for kissing her; nor when he had once begun, he said, could he repel his desire for continuing the sport, till she cried out for a respite.

IN short, my dear, your mamma says they were married next morning, tho' she has been so private as to have concealed it, till about ten days ago; when Tom arrived at her house on horseback, with his servant in livery behind him, to visit his sister, and pay his compliments to your mamma, from whom his sister learnt all this private history.

I HAVE only to add my prayers for your safety, and that I am

Your sincere friend,

MARY PITT.

P. S. METHINKS, I long to see the bridegroom, and whether it is possible he should cut out Mr. Hervey; for one would think, a girl should never run from better to worse.

GEORGE

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss
FANNY GRAHAM.

16th March.

WHAT a miserable disappointment did I suffer yesterday morning, my charming Fanny, when just about seizing the opportunity of speaking to you, for a moment or two, by the intrusion of that unwelcome puppy, to destroy my every hope of private conference with you! But why call I him so? He might have attended there on the like errand to another fair, and deserved equal chance for privacy with myself; nor was I less criminal in his eye, than he in mine: but so it was, my fair one, that I was debarred the pleasure of your sentiments upon a scheme I have projected for your deliverance. I am scrupulous of committing it to paper, for fear of accident or miscarriage; lest, should this be discovered, which is my sheet anchor, and whereupon I found my sole hope, no other means should ever promise so fair an issue.

I

I HAVE hired a stable, from whence, by an hole in the wall of your bounds, against which it is built, I had hopes of viewing you; but upon laying all circumstances together, have wholly relinquished the thoughts of that, and shall adhere to what I am now afraid to mention to you; nor can I exactly do it, till after conference with my agent about it.

I VERILY thought, my dearest Fanny, as I was sitting at my window this morning, that I saw Mr. M—c—s pass by on the other side of the way, in a black wig and English clothing; but possibly I might be mistaken. I hesitate not at the mention of him now, my dear: relying so stedfastly on your favour for me, that I am wholly fearless of his rivalry in your affections. I shall be at the accustomed place on Friday, and not before, having engaged myself for a day or two, for the view of some curiosities I have heard of out of town; though
where-

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wherever I am, no less am I, my dearest
Fanny's

Ever constant and faithful

GEO. HERVEY.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE
HERVEY, Esq;

17th March.

CAN you imagine, my dear Mr. Hervey, your disappointment more than mine, that you join me not in the same predicament with yourself? You cannot, ought not, nor do you think so, I am satisfied. However, I approve your reflections upon the subject very much; but am under no small disquiet, till time shall unvail to me the scheme you are projecting for my escape. Mistake me not, that I want to draw it from you, before it is ripe for execution. No, dear Sir, rather let me remain in longing ignorance, than run the risk of a failure, through my inquisitiveness.

As

As for the stable you mention, my ignorance of every thing without the grate leaves me uncapable of judging its propriety for our purpose ; but my craving after some means can never be satisfied, till we have attained them.

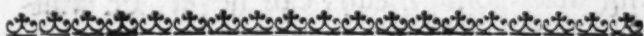
O ! MR. Hervey, how unhappy should I be, could you but harbour the least surmise of a subsisting respect between me and Mr. M—c—s. My ingratitude must exceed that of the most savage creature, should I ever suffer my fancy to stray to what Mr. M—c—s once was to me. No, Sir, as I have had every reason upon earth inclining me to detest and abandon that vilest of his species, M—c—s; so have I had, and for ever shall I retain, every the profoundest reason attractive of my soul to good Mr. Hervey alone.

I wish you a pleasant tour, wherein I shall mentally accompany you, till I am
blest

blest with the reality at the time appointed, where you shall find

Your ever constant

F. GRAHAM.



GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss
FANNY GRAHAM.

21st March.

PARDON, my lovely Fanny, the charging myself only with the disappointment at our last meeting; but yet, my dearest, since it has extracted from you how principally you participated therein with me, I can amply rejoice at the omission: for every instance of my Fanny's regard for me supplies me with delight inexpressible,

I HOPE in a few days, now I am returned, to be able to offer you my proposals. O! may they succeed! on them depend my life, my hopes, my future happiness. I am now certain it was M—c—s I saw the other day: for he
over-

overtook me going post toward the inland parts of Spain, and perhaps may intend the tour of Italy. I shall be at the grate to-morrow. I am but just returned, pretty much fatigued, but could not postpone my answer to yours, which waited my arrival.

I am, dearest Fanny, ever your

GEO. HERVEY.



Miss PITT, to Miss GRAHAM.

16th March.

ALL that at present engrosses the attention of our part of the world, my dear, is a most barbarous murder lately committed by one Mr. M—s upon one Mrs. C—d, in Gloucestershire.

THIS gentleman, whilst at the university, had been too free with his barber's daughter, who proved with child by him; nor were the remonstrances of her parents of weight, for inducing him to marry her,
as

as it seems he had repeatedly assured them he would do, even till she was within a fortnight of her time; when unable longer to conceal the knowledge of it from the ears of his superiours, to whom the barber insisted upon applying; the young gentleman did consent, and they were married. In a few days after this, he pretended to take her to a relation of his in Cheshire, where she would not only be well provided for in her lying-in, but might reside till a proper opportunity for divulging his marriage to the world, and acknowledging her publicly for his wife.

THIS story took very readily with the father; a chariot was hired, and away they went to Gloucester, where he dismissed the chariot as too expensive travelling. They lay there that night, and in the morning he persuaded her to walk out with him a little way upon the road, on pretence of meeting either coach, or some other conveyance, at that time, better adapted to the state of his finances.

ces. They did so, and in the evening a farmer, who had been over-looking the condition of his grounds that afternoon, arriving at the very inn they had set out from in the morning, brought thither an account of a murdered woman he had found lying in a ditch, in one of the fields next the road. This poor creature upon the survey, appeared to be the very woman who had left that house in company of this M—s that very morning; but he was no where to be found, nor hath he as yet been heard of; which flight of his leaves no room to dispute his being the murderer, both of his whore, his wife, and child at one blow; for her skull was fractured, and her throat cut from ear to ear.

I COULD not refrain from transmitting you an account of this atrocious act, notwithstanding it was out of the course of our correspondence; and since I am writing, shall just hint, that from the inquiries I have made, I am informed your cousin Tom has set up his chariot, and is
about

about purchasing a pack of hounds, and lives even beyond the rate of an ordinary gentleman of his own country. As to your relation's fortune, it may be capable of supporting those things; but if not, I should think her not many stages from beggary.

SHALL I tell my dear friend, that I lie no longer under the neglect of the other sex, having received the third visit from a neighbouring young gentleman of very good fortune at his own disposal. I would give dear miss Graham, a sketch of his person and endowments, could I speak without suspected partiality; therefore, my dear, believe him to be what has hitherto rendered his visits very acceptable to me: for I must confess, it is my opinion that the parties concerned, of either sex, are the worst qualified of all others for delineating genuine characters. Forgive, dear miss, this long epistle, from

Your sincere friend,

MARY PITT.

Miss

MISS FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE
HERVEY, Esq;

30th March.

WHAT an astonishment am I under!
O! thou dear Mr. Hervey! What,
not a day pass, but still must my reflection be recalled to what I might have been, but for your tenderness of me? Why live I thus in bonds, beyond possibility of redemption? But, when I consider myself as bound to you, Sir; so far am I from hoping to dissolve the obligation, that I feel my freedom in endeavouring to strengthen it.

DEAR Sir, your love for me will chill, (like my own) the very blood in your veins, at the perusal of the inclosed; which with another of nearly the same date, I this day received from miss Pitt: nor (unless I am greatly deceived) can the cause of M—c—s's travels be longer doubtful to us; since, methinks, upon perusal of her letter, I trace the man
in

in every circumstance of it, till the very catastrophe appears; when who so likely as that villain, dastard, deceiver, M—c—s, to be both the contriver and executioner of this detestable tragedy?

PRAY give me your thoughts of the affair, that I may see how our opinions coincide, or wherein they differ.

POOR Betsey! I fear she is ruined. The mischief intended me, is fallen upon her own head. Could any one, dear Mr. Hervey, who had once loved thee, have condescended to the scum of life, in lieu of thee? But miss Pitt's intelligence, relative to my man Tom, concerns me more for his sake than her's; tho' it mostly happens so; set a beggar on horseback, the beast never wants riding enough: as Tom therefore is fallen into her fortune, I'll warrant him he will live well while it lasts; but alas! poor Betsey! if that's the case, you have made a gentleman of your husband; and he may make a slave of his wife.

I SHALL still decline coming to the grate for two or three mornings more, that, if possible, the suspicion you have raised, by having been seen there so often by some of our elderly matrons, just at the time of my coming, may subside again; nor would it be amiss to refrain from the sight of each other till farther notice, since we have found out so ready a conveyance of our sentiments to each other, not liable to suspicion; for it were far better to suffer a temporary inconvenience that way, than possibly by giving too much cause for mistrust, to be subjected to a final separation.

YOUR answer will either dissuade from, or confirm in her sentiments,

Yours,

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss
FANNY GRAHAM.

March 31, 1730.

I AM but too well convinced from the descriptions in miss Pitt's letter of the 16th, that my dearest Fanny pointed out the very murtherer therein mentioned; but as I know not whether you ever disclosed the intimacy you had with him so minutely, as to give her a suspicion of your knowledge of him, or whether she sends you the account merely for the recency and barbarity of the fact, that being as yet confined to your own breast, I can form no judgment of it; but I make no more doubt of his being the only actor in that tragedy, than that he is now flying from the sentence waiting on his crime; but whither, my dear, can such a wretch fly for peace, whilst he can never avoid himself, his own conscience, that faithful evidence ever at his elbow, still thundering out his condemnation?

O FANNY! I shudder at the thoughts of what you have escaped; nor to have gained the world; no, not even thee, my dearest Fanny, infinitely more valuable to me, would I be consigned to the torments that undone wretch must feel was I even certain of never being accused of it.

I PLEASE myself at your pity for miss Betsy, or rather now Mrs. Gosselin; tho' I can imagine it wrong placed: for the false, the sly detractor, the professed friend, who for her own sake, regardless of her friend, shall without sufficient cause on her part, seek her destruction, and that solely for her own ends too, is so far from meriting compassion from the injured party for her misfortunes, that the most which christian charity can require is, not to aim at a retaliation, nor otherwise to add to her afflictions.

VAIN soul! could she aim at affronting me, in marrying with that undesirable

ble fellow ! Possibly she might ; but was therein deceived : or was it to return upon herself your injuries, that fate ordained a match so unequal and disagreeable ? That my letter stored with the strongest invectives my disappointment could furnish out, stung her, is most certain from her behaviour at the receipt of it ; but little did I then conjecture she would have applied each paragraph literally : for having therein debased her, in my opinion, to the most inferior class of mortality ; as if consenting to the rank I held her in, has joined herself to one of her own form.

I CANNOT say my rancour goes so far as to wish the evil, she is most probably consigned to ; but I must confess, my hand would flinch at my offering it to her relief.

I HEARTILY wish your friend miss Pitt as happy in the consummation of her amour, as I hope, my dear Fanny, we

shall one day be; nay, as we must be, if
it exceeds not the power of thy

Ever constant,

GEO. HERVEY.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss
PITT.

My dear miss,

April 2, 1730.

YOUR shocking story of the murdered
young lady was very terrible to me,
nor should I, in casting my thoughts
round the world for an author of so dis-
mal a fact, have readily hit upon a per-
son capable of it, had not yours pointed
out to me the very villain, who would
have debauched me at Oxford, but by the
concurrence of circumstances and time,
the poor butchered young creature can-
not be her, whose parent, I told you, ap-
plied

plied to that wretch to marry his daughter, in my hearing ; though he, for my quiet sake, laid the case upon his friend. O ! impious barbarity ! had the brute that in his head, when he deluded the poor creature to his embraces, on pretence of marrying her ? O monstrous inhumanity ! how can such a devil even endure his own being ! Mr. Hervey, who has twice seen him within these few days past, is perfectly of my opinion. He saw him last posting towards Italy ; so that in all probability, the halter will never be his fate : though, set aside the iniquity introductory to it, I should infinitely prefer it, with every concomitant shame and ignominy, to a life to be led for ages under the pangs of a corroding conscience.

SURELY miss, a more than usual evil destiny has attended my oppressors ; first, in this monster, who is now abandoned to misery ; and then my cousin, who, you say, is in a fair way, though in a less dreadful manner, of bringing herself to penury ; whilst I, the sport, the

prey of these once projectors of my ruin, am enjoying all that my present situation is capable of, and in daily expectation of an enduring felicity.

GIVE me leave, miss, to wish you joy, upon your approaching nuptials, which I call so, because by some expressions in your last, I presume, you have reserved to yourself no negative to it. Your avoiding all further description of the gentleman, than his agreeableness to you, leaves me, who have so implicit a dependence upon your judgment, no room for other conjecture, than of the height of his perfections; but fancies are various; that therefore you may both be ever most pleasing to each other, shall be the hearty desire of, dear miss,

Your sincerest friend,

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to miss
GRAHAM.

April 5, 1730.

NOW or never, my ever lovely Fanny;
am I in hopes, not only of an
opportunity of saluting you at the grate,
but of enfolding you in my longing arms
for ever.

My fair one, I have spent some hours
these several days past with the old weeder,
our intermessenger; and find her a good
sensible woman at the bottom. I have
paid her high, ever since she has been
retained in my service, and have promised
her fifty pistoles upon the nail, if we suc-
ceed in our enterprize; but as she can't
speak to you herself, to inform you of
any part of our design, I am obliged to
pen it down for your direction, just as
it is to be carried on.

SHE informs me, there is an old fellow,
who constantly works with her in your
grounds,

grounds, who, she knows, sets out to-morrow to see a sister of his, about seven miles off. We have agreed, that as he will make this visit in his best clothes, she, who lodges in the same little house with him, shall put on such of his working gear, as she can best wear under her upper garments, with his shoes in her pocket, his breeches and stockings on, and every other part of his dress, with which you are to disguise yourself, in a little house, where, she says, the tools lie; and in the evening, you are to walk out with her, having your face and hands daubed, like his, that you may not be known. She intends to stay longer than ordinary at work, that it may be duskish at your departure. You will find the things ready for you, at coming from your afternoon prayers.

Now, my dear, all will in great measure depend upon your personating, as near as may be, the old man; which, as you have been so much used to him, she doubts not but you may easily do.

I SHALL

I SHALL commit you to the guidance of providence ; for we attempt no unlawful enterprize, and therefore I am the less dubious of its success. The old woman will, if you escape, conduct you to the arms of

Your anxious, but constant,

GEO. HERVEY.

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Mrs. ANN GRAHAM, to Miss  
FANNY GRAHAM.

My dear Fanny,

April 16, 1730.

YOUR father, child, hath long wondered at his never receiving the least line from you, since your departure ; nay, my dear, I speak it in confidence between you and me, that he seems greatly uneasy at it ; but will not first begin a correspondence with you, judging it your place to condescend to him, by your intreaties and submission. As you know his humour, that he may be led,

but cannot be driven, I am surpris'd you have never offered at a reconciliation with him.

My dear, you are sensible how tenderly we both love you, as our only child, and the hopes of our future family ; why then should your perverseness hurry you from the protection of such affectionate parents ? Let me intreat you to beg your father's pardon ; convince him how your mind is filled with a lively sense of your folly ; that you shall for ever henceforth acquiesce in his pleasure, and, as it becomes you, pursue every measure which may reinstate you in his favour.

I would have you press this very home to him, believing it may prove the readiest, if not the only means of your discharge. For though, till you take the vow upon you, you are at his disposal, and may be recalled from your confinement at his pleasure ; yet, when once you are obliged by that tie, all future application will be fruitless.

I AM

I AM sorry to tell you, your cousin Cross has played an imprudent part, in marrying without the consent or advice of her friends, to a mere boorish illiterate beggar, who spends her fortune unmercifully, and treats even her person extremely ill already; but what better is to be expected from rash unadvised matches. Let her miscarriage give thee more caution and prudence, my dear, than to tread in the same steps, to as certain ruin.

If you apply not quickly to your father for his forgiveness, and cast yourself wholly upon his pleasure, he talks of altering his will, cutting you off with a shilling, and giving his whole possessions, at my death, to your cousin Harry; so that, my dear, you have only this alternative, compliance with your father, and settled tranquillity to all; or consuming the remainder of your whole life in a prison, to our mutual distress and misery.

DELAY

DELAY not my request a moment, my dear child, for the sake of thy poor mother, who will otherwise soon be widowed: for though your father is resolute, I see your behaviour has rankled so on his spirits, as to have already impaired them very much; nor do I imagine he will hold it long, unless an accommodation is made between you. O Fanny! Fanny! I could wish thou hadst not so large a portion of thy poor father's temper, which has too long rendered all his dependents unhappy.

CONSIDER then, my dear, and if for no other reason, submit at the intreaty of

Thy unfortunate mother,

ANN GRAHAM.

Miss

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss  
PITT.

April 10, 1730.

COULD you but conceive my delight, dear miss, in the full and free enjoyment of Mr. Hervey's society, I am sure your loving heart would rejoice with me. My dear, I am free, I am at large, as a native of the world again, and have been so these three or four days past; and as I am now a little composed, and Mr. Hervey from home, I will give you an account of my escape. That loving man, my dear, whose head was ever plotting my deliverance, at last effected it, by means of a weeding woman, a daily attendant in our garden, who, from his first finding me out, had negotiated a correspondence between us. This kind woman, I say, introduced the habit of a male partner of hers in her labours for my wearing; and in his absence, at twilight, personating him, I passed the centinel, gained the city, and have ever since  
been

been with my dear Mr. Hervey, who having shifted his lodging to a remote part of the town, took me with him as his friend, drest in man's clothes, which he had beforehand provided suitable for my wear ; nor know I yet, how long I may remain here ; but shall not stir till matters are recomposed ; for my enlargement having furnished rumour with abundance of employment, diligent search is making after me, nor should I have had so good a chance for concealment upon the road, had we travelled directly, as was first designed ; for no place is so private as amongst a multitude.

I SHALL at least stay here till, you receive this, in hopes of preventing any further application of yours to me, from falling into improper hands, till I have sent you directions for addressing me safely.

I RECEIVED a letter from my mamma just before my escape, beseeching me to intreat my father for a dismissal from  
my



F A N N Y. 111

my confinement : but, poor soul, she little knows I am already past his further violence ; never, never more, dearest Molly, but with life, to part from that man, whose concern has so many ways, and to such an high degree, been demonstrated for me.

I SHALL thank her for her care of me by this post, and assure her, that from henceforth two heads must be consulted in all my affairs. I hope, in answer to this, for an account, by what name and where I am to address you for the future, till fate shall dispose me for England, where no person will ever be more welcome than yourself to the eyes of

Your sincerest friend,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Mrs.  
ANN GRAHAM.

Honoured madam,

April 20, 1730.

I RECEIVED yours with all dutiful regard from a child to a parent ; but as for the advice you are therein pleased to give me, if I may be bold to say so, it arrived rather too late to be beneficial, I having left the convent since it reached me.

You very well know, madam, I submitted sufficiently to my father's decree in coming over hither, into that confinement, which you both can testify my disapprobation of ; why then, if my father was, as you say, a tender parent, was I sent hither ? Was it merely as an evidence of affection, because I was his child, to exercise me in these distresses, he would have scorned to inflict upon a stranger.

CAN

CAN you imagine, madam, that I purposed to stay here longer than needs must? No, surely; and now the time being past for obtaining my liberty, know, madam, and pray inform my father, that I owe it to that Irish fortune-hunter, of whom my cousin was disappointed, after every base artifice to gain him to herself, which occasioned her false trip in taking that boorish illiterate fellow you mention, to her bed.

WAS it possible, madam, you should imagine that I, who from nature inherit the humours of my father, should be subdued in my obstinacy, as you please to call it, by a bare letter from you, and that too the first, after an absence of full six months? No, assure my father, madam, that had I been still in durance, I had scorned to give up my natural rights, (as I take disposing of myself, or at least with my free consent, to be) to the will of any man. Therefore, madam, what you stile obstinacy in me, I call resolution; and that founded upon the strictest justice,

justice, which will ever prevail with me for the maintenance of my liberty, in opposition to every oppressive scheme for reducing me to an abject slavery.

You say, madam, my father and you love me tenderly, from what circumstances am I to credit this? Can your tenderness produce no other effects than to make me miserable? If so, madam, let me beg you to change hands, and use me as roughly as possible; which probably may alleviate my sufferings; but I doubt not of soon being settled in England, not with the fortune-hunter, but the same Mr. Hervey, whose bounty will afford me what my own parents have hitherto denied me; though he has had the same occasion for despising me, (if he would have credited Mrs. Gosselin, whose name you see I am no stranger to, nor have been so ever since it was altered) as you had, who too implicitly gave heed to her insinuations against me.

I SHALL.

I SHALL ever be ready, as will Mr. Hervey, to pay our duties to yourself and my father, whenever it shall please you to regard us as children ; but your usage of me has cancelled the obligation, that should have brought me to your feet for pardon. I am,

Madam,

Your much injured daughter,

F. GRAHAM.

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Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Miss  
PITT.

Dear miss,

Rome, June 14, 1730.

SURELY never poor wretch was so weather-beaten, and tossed from post to pillar, as I have been ; whilst that sweet man, Mr. Hervey, patient as a lamb, has attended me more like a slave, than one who ought to command me ; without the  
least

least complaint at the numberless vexations we have met with; for he, dear soul, is only set to my balance; smiles when I am pleased, and grieves at all that ever so little discourages me; as if really his own intellects were of no other use to him, than to form his countenance and behaviour correspondent to my prevailing passions.

Miss, I grow more and more so devoted to him, that I am almost mad at the poverty of my sentiments, for expressing his real worth and my affection for him.

WE waited in Cadiz for about three weeks after I wrote to you, and would then have taken ship in the harbour, but were not duly qualified for the strict examination we must have gone through, before we could have been admitted on board.

THIS disturbed us for a few days, till we had determined to buy two mules,  
and



and dressing like countrymen, to set out with them loaden before day-light, towards the country. We did so, having procured all things in readiness, for we had taken a little stable for our beasts some days before; where we also deposited clothes proper for the characters we were to assume.

WE left our lodgings, on pretence that we had taken others, and having but a slender equipage, were presently ready for moving. We lay for that night in the stable with our mules, and before day-light next morning had quitted the city, plodding on, as near each other as we could, like clowns, intent only upon our beasts and their lading.

WE halted at about the distance of sixteen miles from Cadiz, where we lay; having been joined by some of our own fraternity, or we had been sadly at a non-plus, where to have put up properly; but we were obliged to take the bad with the good: for though our companions  
were

were of service in directing us to a proper hoftry, yet, when we came to converse with them, on such affairs only as they were fit for discoursing on, had not Mr. Hervey, under pretence of illness, sought after his bed, we had most assuredly been discovered.

WE shifted off this dilemma pretty tollerably ; but the house we inned at affording us but little choice of beds, and those more than one in each room, distressed us again prodigiously.

THE people of the house would not be persuaded, but that we two friends might lie together, as others they said must do. They should have enough upon their hands, were they to find separate rooms and beds for every body ; they did not suppose but that all their rooms and beds too would be full before morning ; so that we must lie together.

MR. Hervey, though he was fearful of urging the matter too far, used however

many arguments for two rooms for us; at least for one room with but one bed in it, which could we have procured, he had designed it for me, and would have shifted for himself, any where; but tho' he offered very roundly for it, no such thing was to be obtained; so that the best we could compass was one bed for us both in the same room, where only two more men were to occupy another; which having submitted to, we both lay down in our clothes till morning, and then prosecuted our journey.

As it mattered not much to us what course we steered, so that we might but avoid suspicion, or hue-and-cry, we never once inquired for several days to what parts our direction tended; till at length we were informed, that we were in the road to Malaga, and not many days distance from the sea-coast.

NOTHING sounding more agreeably than that to us, we pursued our road for several days further, till we arrived there;  
but

but as we had shook off our fellow-travellers at our first stage, so we were cautious how we enlisted ourselves again in any other set of companions.

I CANNOT say our journey was very disagreeable, though the sun was prodigiously scorching. We relieved ourselves however, as often as we could, by riding; sometimes one, and sometimes both: for we had only our clothes in the panniers for best part of the way, till we had reached within a league of Malaga; when reclothing ourselves properly, we entered Malaga on foot, having turned up our mules to the next corner.

AFTER we had been settled for a day or two, for we still dreaded being too long in a place, inquired after the shipping, whether any was ready to sail? and to what place? And at length found a small vessel bound to Italy, which was to sail in about a week.

As

As our business was to leave Spain behind us with the utmost expedition, and as no part of the world would come amiss to us, from whence we might but in the long-run reach England; so we secured ourselves places on board that vessel. I own, though we were almost in another world, as distant as we well could from my convent; yet I could not endure to walk the streets, for fear of detection; and persuaded Mr. Hervey to let us spend our time on board; but he, curious of novelty, still deferred it, till we should have notice of the ship's sailing.

ON the very morning, in which we received orders to be on board by noon the next day; as Mr. Hervey and I were passing by one of the churches there; who should front us, as we were under debate at the door, whether we should go in or not, but my old father Amaggio coming out of the same door.

WHETHER he recollected me again, or only had some faint idea of my face, without remembering my name, and the place of my abode, or not, I can't say; but he eyed me, to my apprehension, as though he was certain of me; stopping a considerable time before he proceeded, and even then looking several times behind him at me.

I WAS never in such confusion, my dear, in my whole life-time; nor can I now conceive what restrained me from falling on my knees, and begging him to favour my escape: for it was the only thing my mind was then at work upon; not in the least doubting but he perfectly knew me. Nay, after he had left me, my knees smote together, and I was in such an agitation, both of flesh and spirit, that Mr. Hervey, who had perceived it, ran to support me from sinking, and begged me to inform him of the cause of my discomposure; for, he said, that  
some-



somewhat had surpris'd me, he was certain.

It was some time before I could recover my tongue; but when I did, dear Sir, said I, let us fly, let us fly; yonder is Amaggio, the very confessor of our convent; he certainly knows me. Observed you not how earnestly he eyed me? He is gone for aid to secure me, and I am undone. I was just falling into a fit, but Mr. Hervey, who was as sensible of our danger by this time as myself; taking me by the hand and comforting me, drew me after him to the water-side, where taking boat immediately, we put off for the vessel, nor ever set we a foot on shore there again.

My dear miss, rejoice with me for that great deliverance, which gave us an opportunity in about twelve days of landing at Leghorn, where we believed ourselves to be in safety.

WE staid not long there; for as my pleasure advanced my dear Mr. Hervey's satisfaction to their supreme pitch; having heard me say that I wished we had landed any where near Rome, that kind man could no longer rest, till he had shewn it me: so that we set forwards in about five days for that city; but alas! my dear, what a melancholy image accosted me, at about half way my journey, in the very M--c--s, whom you sent me an account of from England, wounded, pale, languid, bleeding, and conducting to the town we had just past through, to be delivered into the hands of justice, for a murder he had then instantly committed on the road; but it happening to have been transacted in the sight of two passengers, they immediately ran in, and with their swords almost chopt him to pieces, before he would surrender; so that there being such strong evidence of the fact against him, it was not doubted but he would be executed for the crime.

REALLY,

REALLY, my dear miss, when one sets one's self seriously to consider these things, when one sees how events are brought about, without any determined design of the agents, one would imagine that we were, even the best of us, but as so many puppets, directed to every action by the invisible wires and machinery that put us in motion from behind the curtain.

I SHALL, in a postscript, inform you how to direct for me, and as we purpose to stay two months here, we may probably have the pleasure of hearing from you.

MR. HERVEY has wrote for remittances from England; so that we must wait their arrival, and probably when they come, some time longer.

WOULD you imagine it, my dear! I speak it only as between us two; that though I am assured Mr. Hervey loves me as his own soul; could you imagine,

G 3

I say,

I say, that having once touched upon our marriage at Cadiz, and I seeming disinclined to it till we should arrive in England; he has never in all this time once pressed me to it, nor even by a side-advance mentioned it, he holds whatever opinion I am of, so sacred; for if he had, I should never more have opposed it.

My dear miss, if your lover proves but an Hervey, we shall be absolutely the two happiest women in the world.

A word of cousin Gosselin, and how my family goes on, in your next, to

Your sincerest friend,

F. GRAHAM.

Mrs.

Mrs. SOPHIA HERVEY, to GEORGE  
HERVEY, Esq;

Dear son,

July 15, 1730.

I NEED not multiply words, to convince you how pleasing every of your gratifications are to your aged mother; but give me leave to add the satisfaction it affords me, in that you are again possessed of that valuable lady, in whom I claim no little interest, exclusive of your own in her.

WHAT can enter into the heart of man, prompting him to thwart the inclination of his own child? Especially in an affair so merely arbitrary, as the election of an help mate for life? Advice is the duty of a parent to a child, in every case; but constraint in this case argues the monster. Had you, my son, made choice of a lady with a fortune superior to your estate; but of a perverse disposition, and a sullied character, should

I have had such regard to that, as to have neglected these in my exhortations to you? Discretion and prudence would have forbid it. Then turn the tables, and suppose her disposition and character amiable and unexceptionable, but fortune wholly defective, would not the respect I should have beheld those excellencies with, have over-swayed me in their favour against the consideration of her indigence? Surely it would, it ought: but my dear child, what shall be said to the parent, who, where neither fortune, family, nor merit are wanting, shall by his own arbitrary sentence annul that happiness his child covets, in prudence, and to her advantage? If I must pronounce my judgment on him, such a parent is justly disappointed of his aim; nor can I discommend thee, George, for thy steady attachment to this lady, and perseverance in the attempts to make her thine. I have sent the sum you wrote for, and have added two hundred pounds to it, as a present for miss Graham, there being many pretty toys at Rome, which  
will

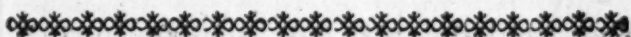


will be worthy of her cabinet in England. I heartily wish you both well, send you my sincere blessing, and have only to wish that heaven will preserve my life till my dear children, shall by their presence, once more gladden the heart of their

Most loving and affectionate mother,

SOPHIA HERVEY.

P. S. YOUR sisters desire their love to you both.



MISS PITT, to MISS GRAHAM.

July 17, 1730.

THOU, my dearest Fanny, hast the least reason girl ever had, to complain of difficulties, which still but heighten the expressions of Mr. Hervey's delight in thee. I know not how enough to envy thy happiness, when I review the behaviour of that desirable man to you, ever the same, ever delectable; nor doubt I of

suitable returns from your prudence and capacity.

THE little history of your stay at Cadiz, with the manner of it, the contrivances, little artifices, and disguises of your persons and actions; your travels, and the rubs you met with by the way, your fears, your doubts, your difficulties, there and at Malaga, till you got on board, I could peruse twenty times over; still tracing every step as a companion with you, whilst my mind is affected with the same joys and disappointments, doubts and apprehensions, with my dearest Fanny; but whether I should have stood the sight of old Amaggio so well as you did or not, I am doubtful: for I think, after the hazards I had run for my liberty, the least possibility of returning to my former privation of it, would have sunk me at his feet, and have discovered me. But, my dear, no sooner have I accompanied you on board, than my flagging spirits clear up again, and with thee and thy Hervey am I all  
glad-

gladfomenefs and vivacity: fo that, my dear, there was no occafion for your reminding me of the joy I was to conceive for your deliverance; every ftep of my Fanny, fo nearly affecting me with fentations agreeable to her own, upon the occafion.

How I envy thee, my dear, the view of that place, which preferable to all others has captivated the imaginations of all mankind! and fain would I conceive myfelf there with you; but my ideas charged with too towering a profpect, ftart at my incapacity of attaining it.

My dear Fanny, what are we to judge, or rather what is there we may not draw into judgment, when we confider the fate of thy wretched oppreffor, receiving the recompence for his crimes in thy prefence? How amazingly has providence retaliated upon him, making thee, child, a fpectator of its juftice! but why you fhould call it a melancholy profpect, I am not able to fathom; unlefs you ftill

can retain (which heaven forbid) any remnants of former affection for so undeserving an object, in prejudice of Mr. Hervey. No, I will not suffer the thought to encroach, but for a moment; it cannot be. Let me impute that flight, merely to the shockingness of the spectacle, and thy tenderness for human nature in general; not in the least to the particular object then before you; which I the rather would do, because your reflections thereon are admirable.

My dear Fanny, as your friend, I have one caution to give you; which is, (tho' I am persuaded your own heart abounds with perpetual memento's, expressive of Mr. Hervey's still higher perfections) that you would not be so lavish in his commendations to others, especially to me, lest, as we all would aspire to the supremest felicity, so that being no where else to be even hoped for, I should put a force upon my friendship, in favour of my admiration; and play your cousin Betsy upon you, by my endeavours for securing

securing him to myself: for what woman, unwedded, can be assured of a man in nature superior to the whole species, and not covet him for her own?

LET it quiet thy fears, however, my dear, upon that score, that I am now within a week of releasing you from all apprehensions on my account, by surrendering myself to the arms of Mr. Charles Goodall; but, my dear, the poor man has had more difficulties to struggle through in his courtship, from my acquaintance with the character of Mr. Hervey, I can assure you, than he otherwise would have met with; for that not a word, sentiment, or action of his has passed over, without a comparison with the same of Mr. Hervey, under like circumstances; and so far as they have agreed, have his been pleasurably embraced by me, where they have fallen short, been disregarded.

Your cousin Tom has taken his lady into Wales, his own country; for hav-

ing made a terrible hole in his three thousand pounds already, through gaiety and elegant living; they are retired to the mountains, whose keenness of air may possibly prepare their appetites for a coarser diet than they have of late accustomed themselves to at Frampton; or Tom must soon go to his daily labours, and cover his table with toasted cheese only.

YOUR father we hear has been long so ill, as to have been deemed irrecoverable by the most skilful heads of the country; owing wholly, as it is reported, to your opposition to his measures; nor are there wanting those who give their sentiments on both sides the question, the numbers being pretty equal; but, my dear, you have the good wishes and highest commendations of all the youth of the country, who have established your character, as greatly worthy of imitation.

I AM up to the ears in preparations for my approaching nuptials, and must conclude with this threatening sentence, that  
this



this will be the last letter you will ever  
receive from

Your quondam friend,

MARY PITT.

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GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Mrs.  
SOPHIA HERVEY.

Honoured madam,

Rome, Aug. 18, 1730.

YOUR goodness and benevolence, I  
see, pursues me even to these distant  
regions, acting with the same vigour as  
when under your own wing; but what  
redoubles the favour, is the affection you  
express for that dear lady, in whom I  
hope you will ever be interested equally  
with myself, as the better part of my  
very being, and on whom the joy and  
happiness of my life intirely depends.

YOUR argument, drawn from the im-  
placableness of some men's tempers, is  
most

most assuredly very just ; but what parent, save my own mother, shall I find of spirit enough to maintain it : self-interest and sordid views so biasing the judgments of all others, that where gold is not added to every other qualification, virtue, honour, and fidelity are esteemed matters of little worth.

I ACCOUNT myself superlatively happy, madam, in your countenancing my attachment to this lady ; and infinitely the more so, as it must have been out of my power to have declined it.

YOUR favour, madam, to miss Graham, I accept as to myself, and on her behalf beg leave hereby to acknowledge it. These acts of benignity, madam, which flow so naturally from you, are what must render us inexcusable, should we not join our very hearts and souls in the petition, that so benign a parent, may not only live to behold us safely returned to her again, but to see our childrens children nurtured in those excellent virtues,

tues, wherewith you abound; none of whom, will then, ever want a prudent adviser, an indulgent parent, or a sincere friend and benefactor.

THAT you, madam, may so continue to be to us and ours, shall never cease to be the humble prayer, of

Your most dutiful and obedient son,

GEO. HERVEY.

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Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Mrs.  
MARY GOODALL.

Rome, Aug. 19, 1730.

**K**NOwING not what alteration matrimony may have made in my friend, or what state may requisitely be assumed upon the occasion, having not yet overleaped the bounds of virginity myself; I am somewhat at a loss how to address you in the beginning of this epistle. Madam, would in my apprehension,  
have

have sounded too formal; my dear, too familiar from a maiden to a wedded lady; and miss, you have before now dismissed; so that relying upon your still subsisting friendship for me, I have closed with the word friend, which continuing in full force between us, will not only plead an excuse of any titular omission, but of any unseasonable liberty I may be guilty of.

I AM glad, my dear friend, that the history of my travels pleased you, which let me assure you, will far better bear relating, than practising; but how joyous would Mr. Hervey and I be, could we be blest with your society here; for being so easily situated ourselves, if you can persuade Mr. Goodall to take the trip with you, we will wait for you here with the utmost pleasure.

WHEN I read your last to my dear Mr. Hervey, I am sure he wished himself somewhere else, he blushed so at the encomiums you bestowed upon him; and  
but

but that you was already out of danger, who knows but he might have left me, to have taken you at your word; but when I arrived at the next paragraph, I jokingly told him, I would put him out of his pain; for that his mistress had left him in the lurch, and would be the wife of Mr. Goodall before he could reach her, make what haste he would.

DEAR creature! would you imagine it, that loving man could scarce bear my joke, the water standing in his eyes at my bare mentioning it: for I think, his very soul is so wrapped up in me, that the least allusion to the disunion of us, is painful to him.

POOR-Betsy! What a bed has she made for herself, after the innumerable philosophical lectures she has preached to me; insomuch that one would have thought her the very abstract of all human prudence: but the wisest may err, and was I to be impannelled upon the trial of her fact, I must concur with my brethren

brethren of the jury, as well in this case, as in those of self-murder, that the poor lady was non-compos; but jests apart; I hope Tom will take up in time, and see the folly of being reduced to the welch morfel you mention.

I AM sorry for my father's illness; for so you know one must say; it is but natural; nay, an eldest son would have expressed himself no otherwise, tho' the estate was to have jump't into his pocket, upon the death of his father; but in sincerity, my dear, my parents have behaved so like strangers, and such as were to be gainers by my losses too, that the tie of relationship between us is almost extinct in my breast; nor can I sustain joy or grief on their accounts, more than for the bulk of mankind in general.

WHILE I am on the topic of parents, my dear, permit me to lengthen this, for a single line or two, in commendation of my mother-in-law that is to be. Mr.  
Hervey



Hervey received a letter from her the other day ; but so fraught with love and amity, and so laudatory of every his proceedings, as is amazing. She called us both her children, and longed but to live till we arrived ; and then, contrary to most other parents, arguing from reason, how far virtue and fidelity exceeded riches, she even charmed me ; for she expressed such pleasure in her son's satisfactions, as if they were intirely her own. O ! Mrs. Goodall ! would my parents, who have twice the reason that she has for it, but act upon the same principles, how blessed might they render both themselves and me ? For want of which, they have already made themselves miserable, and will be more so, when they hear how great likelihood there is of our being happy.

My mamma Hervey, my dear, has sent me a present of two hundred pounds for the purchase of curiosities here : how pretty that was of her, and significant of her regard for me ! so that I shall almost

most long to see old England again; tho' we must stay some weeks longer: for we are to take a tour to Naples, and in our return to Leghorn shall visit Florence. You may write at least once again, after the receipt of this; and tho' I must desire you not to mention where I am, I should be glad if you could some how inform my mamma, that you have heard from me in my travels; and that Mr. Hervey is with me, with whom I purpose soon to revisit England; and if this could be done time enough for my information how they receive the news, before I set out, I should be very glad.

DEAR madam, excuse this prolixity, and believe me ever, single or married,

Your most sincere friend,

F. GRAHAM.

Miss

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to Mrs.  
GOODALL.

Naples, Sept. 5, 1730.

**T**HOUGH <sup>it</sup> you must direct for me at my old apartment at Rome; in case this reaches my dearest Mrs. Goodall before she answers my last; yet I am now at Naples, but shall not stay long here. I am past all wonder at our young gentlemen of fortune travelling into foreign parts; for as nothing can cause life to glide away so sweetly, even to my sex; what advantages must a man of learning reap, who is thereby so much better qualified for making observations than we are, or can be?

My dear, all nature around us is one delightful garden plot; the whole horizon one gilded hemisphere; every plantation affords the finest flavour'd juices, and an universal gaiety smiles through both the animate and inanimate creation here. What I speak of, is relative  
to

to us foreigners in general, and to the superior class of natives in particular: for when we descend to the lower rank of men, that servile dread (peculiar to all the countries under the pope's jurisdiction) is but too apparent among them. Now the cause of this is most apparently that terror with which the clergy over-load the laity, who are as subject to the meanest priest here, as a beggar in England to the king upon his throne; nor is it at all wonderful, that the absolute disposer of the soul should have an especial influence over the body too.

MR. Hervey has presented me with the most modey things through every country as we pass, and behaves to me in every regard like my brother: inso-much, that no one suspects us for other, than brother and sister, save some few familiars.

I SHALL be a perfect mistress of the Italian, if I stay here much longer, and am sometimes in my writing to you much readier

readier in expressing myself in that tongue, than in the English. Mr. Hervey talks of leaving this city in ten days, and then after a short stay at Rome in our return, to make the best of our way to England.

By the way, my dear, I believe Mr. Hervey don't approve some familiarities, which a certain great man will intrude upon me here, whether I will or not. We can never appear in publick, but he is after me; nay he has been several times at my lodgings, tho' denied access to me; so that, to speak the truth, I shall be heartily glad when we have quitted the country; nor is there any thing in particular that retards our departure, save a grand procession, which Mr. Hervey is inclined to shew me, before we set forwards for Rome, being what he never yet saw, nor perhaps may see, whilst we are on this side the water, if we loose the present opportunity.

I SHALL possibly write to you once more, and that will be from Leghorn,  
 VOL. II. H to

to acquaint you with the time we shall  
embark for England, till when, I am

Dear madam, your sincerest friend,

F. GRAHAM.

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GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Mrs.  
GOODALL.

Dear madam,

Naples, Oct. 1, 1730.

**I**F my senses will support the task, I  
shall disclose such a horrid scene to  
you, as I persuade myself, from your  
friendship for miss Graham, will involve  
you in a participation of our calamity.  
Excuse the deficiency of my stile in a re-  
lation so nearly affecting me, as scarce to  
permit me the perfect use of any single  
faculty: for what man can sustain the  
loss of every united virtue and accomplish-  
ment, combined in the divine person of  
that matchless lady, without being driven  
to despair and distraction.

O!



O! dearest lady, tho' you summon every particle of that pity and compassion your soft nature abounds with, it can never suffice to mitigate, or even sooth the terrors of my confused and miserable apprehensions, of what I perhaps already am, or at least must soon be reduced to.

FORGIVE, madam, the wandering of my pen to my own woes, before I engage in the catastrophe of my beloved miss Graham, which, if possible, I shall pursue without further interruption.

SINCE our residence in this city, a Neapolitan nobleman has ever made it his study, not only to attend us to every publick assembly we have appeared in; but as an evil genius, ever at my dear Fanny's elbow, we have scarce stirred any where abroad without him, or has the least opportunity presented, wherein it was possible for him to distinguish her from the rest of her sex, but he has ex-

pressed the most flagrant instances of it, even to creating no small uneasiness to us both; but, as her prudence was ever my sufficient security, against his prevailing upon her affections, being soon to leave the city, I had not the least suspicion of any misfortune arising from thence to either of us.

WHY was I not persuaded by her better discernment, to fly from this hellish place! She urged me to it, it is true; but fond of still delighting her every sense to the utmost, I prevailed for a delay, meerly to please her, with the sight of a most superb procession, then upon the point of execution.

It was but few nights before this show was to happen, that we were parties at an elegant assembly, at the marquiss Du-florelli; whereat were most of the gentry of the place, and the most brilliant appearance I had seen in my travels; but the concourse was so great, that tho' we retreated but to little distance from each other,

other, we were accidentally separated in the croud, nor have I ever since set eye on her; tho' you may assure yourself, no stone hath been left unturned, nor the minutest search omitted, that might have delivered her to my arms again; yet all hitherto hath proved ineffectual.

BEHOLD then in me, dear madam, the most wretched of men in the creation; uncertain where to apply myself for recovery of my ever dear Fanny; and should it (which heaven forbid) never happen, I am consigned to this country for life, nor ever will I remove myself from the spot I last beheld her on; but indulging my sorrows, wait my dissolution there.

I AM, madam, whilst life may yet be protracted,

Your most disconsolate

GEO. HERVEY.

PRAY let me be favoured with a line to my lodgings at Naples.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE  
HERVEY, Esq;

Oct. 6, 1730.

**I**F the anguish of the soul of my dear Mr. Hervey, for our unfortunate disunion, is to be guessed by that of my own, I commiserate your condition exceedingly. Why should you, dear Sir, persist in that close attachment to me, which from repeated experience hath rendered you hitherto so wretched? Why should you not rather avoid an object, who hath so many misfortunes intailed upon her; than by joining in the support of their burthen, contribute to your own miseries?

You, Sir, might live happy, with every gift of fortune, added to the choicest endowments of nature; and gladden, not only our own country with your presence, but introduce the most deserving of my sex to a state of the most consummate felicity with you. Then why, dear Mr. Hervey, should you either remain an  
exile,

exile, a wanderer, without settlement, or habitation, for the sake of a wretch abandoned to her ill fortune, as the most weighty incumbrance you can be oppressed with ?

THINK not, dear Sir, I mention this as my own choice ; but really for lightening the afflictions your concern for me hath, and I fear will still, further bring upon you, without end : for why should I not rather submit to my own hardships, than endeavour at involving you likewise in them, past redemption ? These, Mr. Hervey, are my serious reflections, when I am at leisure for a moment to consider with impartiality to myself ; but alas ! how seldom is that ? and of how short continuance ? for scarce can I form my argument, but self-love prevailing over every other consideration, hurries me back to your arms ; unable to endure the idea of lost hope in you.

O! can you then rush forward to destruction, for love of me? Nor shall the triumph wholly fall to you, myself will meet it, meeting you, with wide spread arms, to oppose its utmost rage. There let it fall, where Providence directs it, on me, mark'd out for fortune's enemy. On me, let every fury fix its claw, rather than wound my Hervey in the conflict.

BE calm my spirits to report the deed, tho' black as hell; to thee I must reveal it. O! my dear Mr. Hervey, scarce was I a moment missing from thy sight, that fatal evening we were last united, when borne by the crowd of people to a further room, a lady, whose fate as I supposed, had urged her to like distance with myself, just fainting seized my arm, and humbly intreated my support, or she must fall, she said, being almost stifled with the heat of the room, and the abundance of company. What less could humanity dictate to me, than to afford her all the  
suc-



succour in my power? I did so; and having withdrawn ourselves from the multitude, she began sensibly to recover her breath and strength again.

AFTER numberless acknowledgments of my favour to her, she desired me to step with her to a side-board in the next room for a glass of wine, after which she hoped she should be fit for returning to the company. To this I agreed, and then, were she but somewhat cooler, she should be quite recover'd.

SHE next intreated me to take a moment's walk in the garden with her, where having imbibed a little fresh air, she should hope to pass the remainder of the evening very pleasantly.

MEANING no harm myself, how could I suspect any from her; but let not too great confidence be placed in strangers, be their professions ever so gilded with the specious glare of sincerity; for herein lay my error. I accompanied this

seemingly distressed lady into what she called the garden; but indeed, only a back way out of the house to a great coach-yard, where (by what means I know not) but I was in an instant hurried into a coach, with my dear friend by my side, and then we were drove off as quick as lightning.

I HAD only time for outcries and tears, my reflections not being as yet collected; but those were of little avail, and of as short continuance: for my good friend, whom I had all along behaved to as a lady, too soon by his natural voice, assumed his proper sex, and stopping my mouth with his handkerchief, not only prevented all further efforts of my voice, but almost of my very breath too: so that had he continued his force upon me much longer, I had fallen dead in the coach beside him.

My terrors prevented my forming any judgment how long I had been in the coach with him, till we alighted; but I

conceive it to have been the best part of two hours; when I was conducted by the hand of my close friend into a most magnificent seat, with every embellishment of art contributing to the decoration of it, and was ushered through a lane of attendants, male and female, to a large saloon at the back front of the building; where who should I see, but the duke de G——, who I soon perceived was prepared for my reception.

He complimented me in a manner familiar to persons of rank in this country, espousing the honour I had done his house by my presence; insomuch that he should ever set so much higher a value upon it, for my having vouchsafed to grace it with my person, which he owned appeared to him as the most exquisitely perfect that nature had ever formed.

He was proceeding in the same strain, and had seized my hand to have saluted it, when snatching it from him, in a stern and resolute voice, I demanded, for  
what

what cause he had employed his mercenary engines to decoy me from my company? and by what authority I was conducted prisoner to his palace, and detained there?

I PERCEIVED, my couragious speech and undaunted behaviour had already put him to the stand, as I am very well persuaded he expected no such thing; but as I had begun, I was determined to demean myself throughout in the same character. After some pause, he replied, that I was then in his palace by his own authority; but hoped I would not look upon myself as a prisoner, where both himself, and all that were his, would be at my command; therefore he desired me to be so free, as to signify my pleasure, and nothing should oppose it. Order me then, said I, the coach to the door to convey me back to my company.

I WAS in hopes, replied he, that having declared myself at your command; your first orders would not have proved  
so

so disagreeable to me, as to contain the only thing I cannot consent to execute : for my life, said he, (falling into raptures) not all human nature shall ever divest me of what I now possess, and have long fought for.

WHAT, Sir, said I, have you now in such certain hold, that you will not part with ? Your person, madam, returned he, never more to be enjoyed from mine ; then let me seize the first fruits of my passion from those soft lips (and was about to salute me.) What fools are the great men of the world, said I, who conceive no opposition can avail against their inclinations ! As if all the world was purposely made for them, and the rest of their fellow-creatures had neither wills of their own, nor a right to pursue them. Know Sir, added I, that I condemn your frowns or favours : I neither covet, nor will I accept them. You may please your fond fancy in what you call the possession of me ; but ere you shall subdue my will to your pleasure, I will die upon the spot if I can't escape.

Nor all the devils in hell shall force you hence, said he. Poor foolish man! replied I; there wants nor men nor devils to rid me of a base oppressor; this arm can baffle every your attempts to my indignity, nor will I draw a breath beyond the preservation of my honour and innocence.

MADAM, said he, you seem to rant, and talk idly, as if you would frighten me by big swollen words from my purpose; but I am of another make intirely; I can soften into love by proper invitation, but never truckle to female rage; my purpose once concluded on, with intrepidity I urge over every opposition, to its final completion; and tho' I had much rather by gentle persuasions gain you to my arms, these ended, force must succeed to crown my wishes by its violence. I never yet was foiled by woman, nor will I ever be; but soft. I shall leave you to your own reflections till to-morrow; then judge how much  
more



more agreeable good nature and a smiling condescension to my will must prove to us both, than a rigorous attainment of the same end ; and for that, which ever way you choose, must be the result infallibly.

He has now left me, and what way to behave myself, I know not. Could I but give thee information where I am, I know thou wouldst attempt my release, at any hazard ; but then, should I, in order to secure myself, lose thee my only friend, my noble benefactor ; life, virtue, honour were but ill preserved at such a price, as must for ever incapacitate me for the enjoyment of any of them.

I HAD an elegant supper and lodging last night, and now a call to dinner prevents the further exercise of my pen till to-morrow, when I shall commit to writing the following transactions of this day, which I am in hopes will by some means steal a conveyance to my dear  
Mr.

Mr. Hervey, as the dictates of the longing heart of his captive

F. GRAHAM.

I AM now about to subjoin my account of yesterday to my foregoing story. Dear Mr. Hervey! what a beast have I to combat with! O! were but mankind like yourself, Sir, how desirable would their society be? But 'tis in vain to wish, since in fact the case is so far otherwise. This great villain, so much the more dangerous by the power his title has invested him with, approached me in the afternoon yesterday, with that composure of countenance, and volubility of easy expressions, as might have disguised the foulness of his heart, from any one less knowing in male artifices than myself; but to me, it was the forerunner of a world of perplexity. My charming goddess, said he, what a bewitching face have you put on to-day? Would it were filled with scurff and wrinkles then, said I, rather than prove a pander to my innocence;

nocence. Come, I perceive you are one of those, said he, who rather choose to fall by storm, than surrender upon capitulation; but be it so, thou'lt glory in the deed extorted, for which, if thou hadst consented, thy blooming cheeks would have blushed themselves into scarlet. I know thy heart consents, my lovely maid, tho' custom baulks a free confession of it; then let me ravish from thee that delight, thy struggling arms would seem to resist.

HE was then making up to me with much seeming transport; and ready to die I was, lest his strength should have overpowered me: for being<sup>e</sup> in my bed-chamber, I dreaded his casting me on the bed, when I was apprehensive, my very fears might have thrown me into a fit, and have deprived me of all assumed boldness; but snatching down a sword, which by chance hung on a peg in my room, I drew it, and putting myself up on the defensive, I vowed he should lay no hand on me, but with that weapon  
through

through his body ; or if my arm was so unlucky as to miss his life, I would rather surrender up my own to the fatal instrument, than acquiesce in his pleasure.

FINDING no good to be done with me, he ran to the stairs-head, as I judged, to call assistance ; but having once gotten him without the door, I flapped it after him, both locking and bolting it too securely to fear his entring upon me unprovided. As for the windows, I had no apprehension from them, having before projected my escape from them, had they not been closely grated : so that casting myself upon my bed, I remained there till this morning, without either the sight of, or hearing from any one.

I KNOW not what step to take next, being so full of fears that I am almost distracted. I shall be cautious how I open my door to-day : nay, in my present opinion, shall rather starve myself to death here, than admit any one in to me.

DEAR

DEAR Mr. Hervey, think no more  
upon

Your wretched

F. GRAHAM.

I HAVE been two whole days, and three nights in my retirement, without the sight of one soul; nor have I tasted bit or sup. I am very faint; but yet of opinion, I can keep firm to my resolution of confinement till death. In how glorious a cause shall I make my exit! Grieve not for the loss of me, dear Mr. Hervey; the thoughts of thy sorrows, if any thing, will overcome my resolves: for could I be ascertained of your consent, not all the world should recall me from this solitude; but my heart bleeds for you, Sir, and then the woman overpowering me, I am devising means for avoiding that death, which would otherwise come so welcome to me.

THINK me not, dear Sir, presuming,  
when I hesitate not to say, my death  
would

would distress you ; for unless the tenour of your whole life, since I had the honour of your regard, hath been a force, and utterly a feigned scene ; what else am I at liberty to conclude, than that I am most dear to you.

WHILST I am at this exercise, the duke is setting out with a great retinue. O ! may he never more return to my undoing ! I am very faint, and tho' I could continue writing whilst life remains, could I but hope for its ever reaching you, I must leave off for a time ; if my spirits revive, you shall hear farther.

THE duke had not been gone ten minutes, before a messenger arrived at my door from the dutchess, signifying how glad she should be of some conversation with me, now her husband was set out for the court.

I HAD little room but for suspicion at best ; but then, what should occasion the lady's inquisitiveness after me, who  
could



could be introduced to her palace, but to her dishonour? I was in twenty minds what to think of the adventure; but could resolve it into nothing less, than a stratagem to get my door once open, and then of restraining me from securing it again, till the duke's return; nay I even doubted much, whether his journey thither was not a meer pretence for coming at me: so that I returned my duty to her grace, that I was a very improper object for her conversation, and that with her leave, I chose rather to finish my course (which a few days would determine) where I was, than expose myself to any future insults from her husband.

HER grace returned me for answer, that as she could not but greatly commend my resolution, so had her husband continued at home, she wou'd have been far from attempting to deliver me into his hands; tho' her concern for the virtue I seemed mistress of would have been inexpressible, upon any melancholy catastrophe

catastrophe happening to me by her husband's means ; but as he was now from home, and bound to attendance upon the court for a few days, she hoped her company would not prove unacceptable to me ; so much of it, at least, as in his absence could be afforded me : wherefore she intreated me not to persevere in my fatal determination, but to admit her, as possibly a means of my future enlargement.

HER goodness hath prevailed, and I have promised, upon her approach to my chamber, to open my door to her, and now wait the issue of our meeting.— May it prove propitious !

I HAVE, my dear Mr. Hervey, just parted from the sole ray of comfort I have received since my confinement.

HER grace condescends to visit me, soon after I ceased from writing this morning, to whom I with all apparent freedom unbolted my door ; but secretly

ly my heart trembled, lest I had in her let in the source of some succeeding misfortune: tho' never received I more consolation from the society of any one lady in my life before, and am now perfectly charmed at her behaviour to me.

SHE is, Sir, one of the most majestick women you ever saw; but so free, so easy, so affable as would have captivated you, had you beheld her manner, as I did. I fell at her feet, and embracing her knees, besought her compassion for a poor young creature, destined by her lord to perpetual infamy. She raised me from the ground, and saluting me, Young lady, said she, (for such your mien and address bespeaks you,) it shames me to confess myself the wife of so profligate a man as the duke de G——; but the will of a father, rather than my own choice, combined us together in wedlock.

I WAS perfectly apprized of his character, before I became his bride; nor engaged I with him under the hopes some ladies

ladies are flushed with, of washing the blackmoor white : for his principles were so deeply tinged with libertinism, and that from his infancy, that I had no other remedy against injuries of the marriage-bed, than an implicit submission to his will ; which having ever adhered to, I lead a sort of widowed marriage state, with very little share of enjoyment either of his bed or board ; insomuch that it being now grown familiar to me, a mistress or two in my family, gives me little more disturbance, than a new face amongst my servants.

I DOUBT not, would I exert my temper to the pitch of some women ; but I might at least cause his pleasures to sit less easily upon him, than they now do ; but myself must also, in such case, share in his disturbances : nor would my utmost efforts reclaim him from his libidinous course at home, and much less abroad : so that I find it much more agreeable to me to tolerate his debaucheries here, than elsewhere.

BUT young lady, added she, the excellency of your disposition, hath so far given me an interest in your welfare, that command me any thing within my power, and I will most readily serve you; for virtue and innocence shall ever find a protectress in me.

I RETURNED her my grateful thanks for her favours, and intreated her not to deliver me up to the duke's will; but rather to permit me to perish in my own chamber, than to assist at his ever making his way to me again. To which she replied, she was amazed at my constancy; but as it was so pleasing to her, she would procure means for preventing my perishing by hunger, notwithstanding the duke's barbarity to me: adding, that tho' he was feared by his servants, more than herself; yet the love they bore her, would carry them through every her orders with far more alacrity, than the dread they had of him would spirit them to his service; so that she would find means of

preserving me, was my confinement to be of much longer duration than she hoped it would be.

HER grace then telling me, she doubted not but I must stand in more want of somewhat to refresh me and revive nature, than of any counsel she could give me; desired me to accompany her to dinner, which I did; but having never moistened my lips for so long a time, I scarce craved after any thing, and the whole of my meal amounted to no more than a few spoonfuls of soup, and a mouthful or two of fish, and even that made me so sick, that I feared it would not have staid upon my stomach; but a glass of very rich wine, which I drank after it, recomposed me very much.

OUR whole afternoon was passed in discoursing of our private affairs, wherein I related to her my father's cruelty to me, his disappointment, and that you, dear Sir, had been the sole author of all my past benefits, and would be so of all my  
future



future expectations; and that could I but by any means inform you of my situation, I was well satisfied your regard for me would prompt you to the most effectual means for my redemption.

SHE was so affected with my story, that she even wept at the relation of it; and when night came, having supped together, she asked me whether it would be any relief to me, to send you a letter of my difficulties? To which I replied, it was the only thing on earth that I longed for, being convinced, that your not knowing what was become of me, was the most sensible affliction you could suffer.

HER ladyship then ordered me to write to you, as this morning, and if I would bring it her at dinner-time and dine with her, she would be answerable for its safe conveyance to you; but charged me to enjoin you to all possible privacy, as to where I was, till you should hear farther from me; now if you can think me

still worthy of a line from yourself, dear Sir, directed to Signora Louissa Bernardi, her grace's woman, it will come safe to the hands of

Your ever constant

F. GRAHAM.



GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Signora LOUISSA BARNARDI, for Miss FANNY GRAHAM.

Oct. 19, 1730.

**A** REPRIEVE from the instruments of torture to the delinquent, at the instant of his extension upon the rack, could not give such a lively flow to his then ravished imagination, as my dear Fanny's letter wrought upon me. To have heard thou wert alive, my dear, tho' under the acutest anguish, had been joy inexpressible to my agonizing spirit; but to receive it from thine own hand, and from no greater distance, to hear thou

thou art in health, and that under the detention of such a cursed villain, thou art assisted (under providence) by that humane lady, deserving of every blessing for her benign treatment of you; to lay all these things, my dearest Fanny, together, how ought we to magnify the bounty of the great disposer of all events!

I HAD determined never more to leave Naples till I had heard of thy fate, and had either found thee, or lost myself in the acquirement of thee; but providence may still unite us, and I hope will, through the mediation of thy generous benefactress. However, now I know thou art safe, how easy am I, to what the whole universe before could have rendered me! I must need say, I suspected not the author of your distress in this affair, because from all the injury I could make, he was not at the marquiss's, the night you was taken from me.

My dear Fanny, when I reflect, from day to day, on the conflict thou hast su-

stained with that brutal man, what am I to think of thy conquest? Surely, my dear, when nature is grown incapable of adding one more fresh circumstance, for cementing my affection to thee, by the least further tie, our trials will cease, and we shall both see an end of our miseries. I believe she has now brought her operations to a crisis, therefore hope this will be last effort of hers we shall have to struggle with.

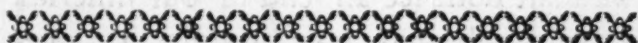
I SHALL nicely observe her grace's instructions; but should think an application to a secretary of state, or even to the king himself, might be made with success, for releasing you: whenever I am to be again blest with a line from you, observe upon these hints, after advising with her grace thereon. Tell her, I kiss the ground she treads on, for her goodness to you. I shall be impatient for an account from you, after the duke's return. I need not remind thee of perseverance in virtue; no, my Fanny, thou canst

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canst instruct even angels in that. May  
heaven soon unite thee again to

Thy most faithful

GEO. HERVEY.



Mrs. MARY GOODALL, to GEORGE  
HERVEY, Esq;

Oct. 24, 1730.

**T**HE very first view of your letter of  
the 1st instant, Sir, caused almost a  
total stagnation of my vital current, and  
chilled me to a lifeless statue; nor had  
I power to proceed, death staring me so  
full in the face, as well nigh to have stu-  
pified me; but no sooner had I arrived  
to the name of a Neapolitan nobleman,  
than I turned my terrors from my dear  
Fanny, to your account: having heard  
they are remarkably polite to the ladies.

Good Mr. Hervey, you have not sure  
forgotten that you are an Englishman,

I 4

from

from your long residence abroad; nor can you be now to learn, that an openness of heart, and freedom of manners, (so peculiar to our own country, that an instance to the contrary creates wonder) is not to be met with (as Mr. Goodall tells me) so frequently in the regions you have been passing, as at home. You must therefore make allowance for the customs of the places you live in, since an inhabitant of those parts, may take that for a meer piece of gallantry, which here would denote the villain: so that Sir, in my opinion, you was highly culpable, for allowing, as we do in England, an opportunity for what you both disliked, as well as this nobleman, for making use of it after the manner of his country: for grant me but once in my life to pretend to some prophetick insight into things transacted with you, so distant from me; and my life for yours, you find her at the nobleman's you speak of. She is certainly there, and from thence alone you must recover her.

MR.



Mr. Goodall has travelled, and tells me you run the utmost hazard in demanding her; for as you cannot appear on that score without expressing a due repentment of the injury done you; those noblemen no sooner take a dislike, tho' it be but to a man's countenance, than they have their desperadoes to displace him from farther impertinencies. I would advise you to caution on your attempt, and sincerely hope you will both meet again, the same innocent pair that you parted; an account of which, I shall with impatience wait for.

I would advise your return with all possible expedition to England, where you may enjoy yourselves, exempt from the fear of further separations. Mr. Goodall desires I would join his good wishes for your safety to those of

Your sincere friend and servant,

MARY GOODALL.

Miss FANNY GRAHAM, to GEORGE  
HERVEY, Esq;

Oct. 29, 1730.

**I**S it possible, dear Mr. Hervey, that your patience should endure for ever? If you can still with pleasure receive a line from me, then let your compassion excite a sigh for my absence from you. It is no more than I have been exercised in daily, and still am from hour to hour; and when they will end, I am not now a whit more capable of informing you, than before.

His grace arrived yesterday, and will stay here till Monday: for I find by her grace that his post requires his presence Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in every week. He had not been in the house a quarter of an hour, before he was at my door, which I refused opening upon his demand; at the same time declaring, that I never would open it to him. He asked me what I had done for  
victuals?

victuals? I replied, the same providence whose care extended to the whole universe, would not suffer that person who studied its will, to perish. He then began to swear horribly, still demanding entrance. I replied, he should have none to me. When he vowed he would beat the door, nay the whole house about my ears, but he would gain admittance.

He would then behave to my wish, I told him, for that I had rather find my destruction in the ruins by his means, than commit violence upon my own life; not that I feared meeting death in any shape, in defence of my honour and chastity; but I reserved my own hand as my last resource, from whence I might at any time dispatch myself from his cruelty.

In the afternoon, a second and double attack was made upon me; one at my window, the other at my door, whilst I stood with the drawn sword in my hand, insisting that the moment he should gain either pass, he should receive nought for  
his

his recompence, but my slaughtered corps upon the floor.

I VERILY thought his resolution would at all hazards have forced him upon the completion of his purpose; nor would I have declined my own in the least; tho' I had only himself to have dealt with, I would rather first have made the experiment on his body, than my own: for hearing several voices at the door, I concluded his person would not be the first to attack me; but that his under ministers would be sent to secure my weapon, before himself would appear; and this kept me staunch to my purpose, for falling upon the sword, on the first breach of my fortress.

HOWEVER, all was once more silent; and hearing no more of him, at night I laid me down for rest: for I never once went into bed, but in his absence from the palace. I had not laid long, before a cry of fire through the whole house rung so loud a peal in my ears, as to stagger my firmness prodigiously; yet  
even

even that could not reduce me to a rash act: for looking from my window to observe by the light, on which hand of me it lay; I could observe a light indeed, but it seemed to be rather behind me, than in either wing of the building.

I KEEPING myself still quiet, without the least stir or motion, about my chamber, a servant was sent to awake me, with news of the fire being but just behind my chamber, and that if I was not very expeditious in retiring, I should certainly be burnt. My answer was, that his lord had already kindled a more consuming fire in my breast, than all the materials of his palace could raise; that as I had been able to subsist so long under that, any other could have no effect upon me, and that I was resolved, rather to perish in it, be it what it would, than surrender myself into the hands of the man I dreaded more than a thousand deaths.

I HAD no sooner said this, than I heard a whispering at my door, from which I suspected, that this cry of fire was

was devised as a snare for me : so that I began to be much easier on that head than I had been, nor when the servant again urged me to flight, upon assurance of his lord's having already quitted the building, did I give myself much concern about a reply ; but bidding him get out of danger himself, I told him my determination was to perish with the consuming edifice, so that he need take no farther trouble for me.

I GOT over the night by these means in security ; but the next morning involved me again in a new scene of troubles : for upon another assault of my door, which was a prodigious strong one, after playing their batteries against it for some time, a large shiver of the wood flew into my room. This not only gave the enemy a full view of me, but me of them at the same time.

His grace, who was one of the agents, exulting at this, and threatening instantly to be master of me, I replied, I believed  
what



what he said was too true ; but that I might not be driven to a nonplus, as the time of my ruin was so nearly approaching ; to demonstrate to him, that I wanted not resolution to effect my purpose, I would then satisfy him, how ineffectual his endeavours to my dishonour were, by plunging the sword, I then held in my hand, into my own breast ; after which he might behave as he pleased to that carcass when lifeless, which during my whole life I had preserved from infamy.

I THEN extended my hand, and my mind laboured under such confusion, that I had most certainly sheathed the instrument in my bosom, had he not called out to me to stop, and I should depart unmolested. I then held my hand, elevated as it was ; Sir, said I, it is not death you may easily judge that I covet, only for the sake of dying ; no, I have every cause inspiring me to wish for a long enjoyment of life : but then it must be in an honest, virtuous, and upright way ; in the way that myself shall choose ; not loaded

loaded with that shame, contempt, and ignominy, which you would bring upon me. No, Sir; whilst this arm can free me from the impious state you would reduce me to, nothing in life will be more eligible to me, than its employment in that service; but should heaven divert such sinful purposes from your heart, I can with equal pleasure put up this weapon in its sheath as now I have drawn it to commit bloodshed.

WELL! said his grace, I have done with you; come out now to me, and I will permit your departure unmolested. I replied, that I could place no dependence upon a man of his principles; but if he meant uprightly, he would at his next return to the court give orders to his family for discharging me in his absence; and that I should accept of, both as the highest favour he could offer me, and the greatest blessing that could befall me.

I COULD obtain no direct answer to my demand, but certain shifts, which I was

too prudent to give credit to; so that persisting still in my resolution for dispatching myself the moment his force was likely to succeed, he left me, where I have continued till yesterday, when he set out again for Naples.

HER grace is afraid of your stirring in the affair, but intreats you to be wholly passive; lest the instruments of his malice should prevent our future enjoyment of each other; but tho' she fears to favour my escape in his absence, she has assured me, I shall be succoured with all her interest towards my enlargement at his return, by means of a servant she hath ever found most trusty to her: so that if we can any ways compass it, I shall aim at my deliverance either on Friday or Saturday next, at midnight; where, if in my solitary walk, I could meet Mr. Hervey, himself can by himself testify the joy it would minister to

His ever constant

F. GRAHAM.

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Miss  
FANNY GRAHAM.

1st Nov.

**I**T cannot be even surmised, my dearest Fanny, what a flow of delight poured in upon me at hearing of your subsisting constancy, and the intrepidity of that resolution, with which you have illustrated your conduct through the whole of this unhappy affair.

My heart bleeds, my dear, at recounting what you have suffered; yet methinks, vile as the duke has proved himself in this transaction, I could still adore the man, for desisting from his enterprise, perceiving your life was in danger. O Fanny! when shall I ever be able to repay the numberless expressions of thy affection for me? Never, never, dearest Fanny. Thou hast drained my stock, made me a bankrupt, and thus reduced, must I from henceforth seek all my future comfort at thy hand only.

CAN

CAN there be any favourable prospect arising from her grace's benignity to you? Is it possible she should be able to bring about your deliverance? O! may she prosper, and may the Father of us all, never desert her in her severest trials; but ever contribute, as she to thine, so he to her protection.

It is not to be presumed, my ever lovely Fanny, that I should for some days past have been informed of your residence, and not have made myself master of its situation and out-lets; no, my dear, scarce a day has elapsed, wherein I have not visited it, tho' unblest with the sight of my dear Fanny; nor will I fail of meeting you at the time appointed, in the entrance of the grove, by the road side in the way to Naples, which I judge will be safer for me, than to present myself even at the palace gate to receive you; it not being more than five minutes walk from it. May heaven favour the attempt, and once more com-  
mit

mit my ever charming Fanny to the arms  
of

Her faithful

GEO. HERVEY.

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GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; and Miss  
FANNY GRAHAM, to Mrs. GOODALL.

Rome, Nov. 9, 1730.

WITH what a serene tranquillity enjoyest thou thyself and spouse in England, my ever dear friend; whilst poor Mr. Hervey and I, wading in the turbulent ocean of perpetual adversity, such conflicts have we engaged and vanquished, as might decorate even the annals of the most errant knight in chivalry.

SINCE I wrote you my last, Mr. Hervey informed you (as he tells me) of the rape committed upon me at an assembly at Naples, which disjoined us for some weeks; but my dear, whence arises your art of foretelling events at such a distance?

For



For most certainly I was then confined to the very spot you had fixed me to.

It would be too tedious to enumerate the particular attacks made upon my honour by that dishonourable nobleman, whose lady was at length not only the projector of, but an assistant to the freedom I now enjoy; but my dear friend, I shudder at the reflection of the price I might have paid for it. Having concerted our measures for my escape, appointed the night for its execution, and given Mr. Hervey notice to receive me; I had but just met him at the appointed place of rendezvous, when two ruffians, employed by his grace, interposed to obstruct my proceeding further with him.

It was within the shelter of a wood, through whose lofty branches, the moon, chequering the verdant surface by its illumination, added to the solemn horror the place itself abounded with; when one of them, with his club erect, demanded who we were? and whither we were going?

It is most certain, we could neither of us have replied to any demands more painfully than to these; but Mr. Hervey stepping back from the reach of his weapon, drawing me with him, and instantly unsheathing his sword, replied, it was beneath a man of his figure to render an account of his actions to any man. The fellow then claiming me, and vowing I should move no further with him, was reaching a blow at Mr. Hervey's head, when I perceived, by the reflection of the light upon it, that the sword was through his body; but Mr. Hervey had not withdrawn it, before he fell, and a companion of the fallen man, rushing through the wood, made at my dear Mr. Hervey with the fury of a savage beast, intent on his destruction; nor had Mr. Hervey more time, than just to raise his hand in his own defence, before this wretch by a blow on the head sent him reeling into my bosom.

THE fellow would have redoubled his blow, had I not screened the dear man  
with

with my own body from his rage; but meeting with some difficulty in attaining his purpose, unless through me, who covered him, and seeing him already upon his knees, and as he judged had no likelihood of soon recovering himself again, his companion groaning horribly, he retreated to his assistance; in which time my dear Mr. Hervey regaining his feet was prepared for a second onset.

THE desperate villain, on seeing his opponent thus recovered, ran to the charge again, in hopes of ministring a more lasting quietus to him; but the dear man (as he told me afterwards) recollecting the prize he fought for, and that his sole hope depended on conquest, little regarding the enemy's fury, flew at him, and closing within the swing of the club, ran his sword through the neck of him, and before the villain could be prepared for a second blow, Mr. Hervey had run him through the thigh.

THE battle was now over between the contending champions ; for both the assailants were fallen ; tho' whether wounded mortally or not, we could not conjecture, being both still alive ; but now had I like to have closed the scene of this tragedy : for tho' I bore up with unexpected fortitude during the unequal combat ; that being ended, my reflections upon what might have been the consequence of it fell so weightily upon me, as even to bear me to the ground with the two ruffians ; and at so small a distance from them, that the watchfulness Mr. Hervey would have applied to my succour, he was obliged to employ to the prevention of their laying violent hands upon me : for he stood between us, threatning instant death to the hand that moved to molest me.

It was not long however, before I was recovered and was capable of rising on my feet ; when that spot proving so ungrateful to us, with the utmost speed

we

we could attain to, we made the best of our way to Naples again; where taking post directly, we arrived in due time safe at Rome; and there met a favour or two of yours, which I have not time at present to answer.

WE had thoughts of seeing Florence, and shall set out to-morrow for Leghorn; but if I can prevail on Mr. Hervey, who never yet denied the minutest request of mine, we shall take no longer shelter in a country, which might have been so fatal to us both: so that if I have any portion of your prophetic spirit in me, the next time you hear from me will be from some part of my long-wished for England.

WISH us a good voyage, my dear, for I know not but we may come all the way by shipping; which, tho' I am no great friend to the water, will be equally agreeable to me with a land journey, having my dear Hervey with me. We are, dear madam, under the highest sense of our

obligations to you for your most beneficial correspondence with us so long,

Your sincerest friends and servants,

F. GRAHAM.

GEO. HERVEY.

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Mrs. FRANCES HERVEY, to CHARLES,  
GRAHAM, Esq;

My honoured father,

Jan. 14, 1730.

**I**F after manifold distresses in England, and rolling over the hazardous ocean involuntarily; if after the most irksome imprisonment, and combating there with those temptations which were insidiously prepared for the subversion of my innocence and future happiness; if after excess of peril sustained by land, both in my travels and from the snares of men; that ocean, wherein so many find their graves, hath delivered me safely to my native country, there to receive the welcome of my dearest parents, and to be admitted-



mitted with my husband to implore their blessing on us both ; how happy shall we both esteem ourselves, and how inconsiderable will our past troubles appear, if we had your orders for putting ourselves upon that journey, which, under your approbation, will be taken by us with the highest transport. Mr. Hervey begs his duty may be accepted by yourself and my mamma, together with that of

Your submissive daughter,

F. HERVEY.

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GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; and his lady, to Mrs. SOPHIA HERVEY.

Honoured madam,

Jan. 15, 1730.

**Y**OUR long lost son is now arrived safe at London ; hoping that his tedious absence will be amply compensated for by the tender he makes you of a daughter, highly worthy of our dearest

mamma. If you command us down to you, we have no pretence against immediate compliance ; but if you can indulge us a few weeks delight here, after the pain we have hitherto laboured under, the favour will be most agreeable to us.

PRAY madam, let the next post confirm our desires for your health. Make our love acceptable to my sisters, and dear madam, accept the joint duty of

Your son and daughter,

GEO. and F. HERVEY.

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Mrs. FRANCIS HERVEY, to Mrs.  
GOODALL.

Jan. 14, 1730.

**I** AM now, my dear friend, together with my dearest husband, at that superb metropolitan city of London ; nor was I ever better pleased, than at my present capacity for dating this to you from  
thence :

thence : for, my dear, tho' I have passed through, and have been resident in the greatest cities in the known world ; yet if one has had the advantage in this respect, another in that, there is not one amongst them all possesses every perfection of this magnificent city.

WE arrived on the 10th in the evening, and were married the next morning at St. Paul's ; so that now my mind being released from those perpetual anxieties, which accompanied me in my single state in England, I shall rejoice as much at the sight of my parents, being out of the reach of their machinations against me, as ever I did heretofore to avoid them. We have by this post wrote to my father, and if he sees fit to receive us as his children, Mr. Hervey will compliment me so far, as to make our first visit to him ; but as to that, his behaviour to me has been so very un-engaging for a long time, as to have left me almost wholly indifferent how he receives it, or whether he will see us or not : for,

my dear, I thank my kind stars, we shall never be destitute of a thorough friend and parent, whilst that best of women my mother Hervey lives; and then fortune having favoured my dear Mr. Hervey with a fine estate, tho' my father should dispose of his all to a stranger, Mr. Hervey will never repine at it, having often, both before and since our marriage, declared to me, that he had rather have me mistress of five hundred a year of his own providing me, than of ten thousand, either of my own, or my father's: for that his sole ambition hath ever been, to have in himself the absolute gratification of all my desires.

WE have also by this post wrote to my mother Hervey; and now methinks we are once more established in the living world, and shall after a random life passed in various parts, and under as different circumstances, I hope, sit down for the remainder of our days in tranquillity.

If Mr. Goodall and you should have thoughts of a trip to town this winter, how chearfully might we enjoy ourselves here ; for neither of us seem inclinable to quit it, till about April or May ; but be that as it will, let not my dear friend fail of duly corresponding with

Her sincere well-wisher,

F. HERVEY.

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Mrs. MARY GOODALL, to Mrs.  
HERVEY.

Jan. 18, 1730.

**T**HY letter, dear Mrs. Hervey, from so near a port as London, was the most agreeable present I could have received, as it ascertains me, not only of an event I have ever longed for, I mean your marriage to that indulgent man ; but of your having already passed through the most troublesome scenes of life, I hope you will ever be engaged in.

I COULD heartily wish to be of your party at the operas, and other diversions of the town ; at this time especially, when nature seems to have forbidden all delights elsewhere to our sex ; but then, my dear, we married women must have our master's pleasures at heart, preferable to our own ; and Mr. Goodall is such a keen sportsman, as to venture his neck ten times a day, for a creature unworthy of the carriage when taken. Now and then its true, he brings me an hare ; I think, my last was the third at the expence of about forty pounds, men and horses, this season. I know not whether your man is so diligent as mine in his profession ; if he is, you do well to keep him where he is, or you must lie many an half night alone. My dear, I give you these few hints, of what you are to trust to, in case, as I said, our husbands minds take the same turn. Then a word in your ear, my dear, wives need never complain, who have money in their pockets, and every thing else provided them ;



them; now this must be as true as the gospel, when our masters assure us it is so, and in truth I am apt to believe them, especially where there is no redress.

O! my dear; matrimony, will be matrimony to us all, sooner or later; and had Mr. Goodall but been bred a tradesman in London, I should never have despaired of being a lady mayorefs: for certainly the assiduity he expresses in his business, be it what it will he undertakes, and that sollicitude which brings him first in at the death of a fox, would upon another pursuit have given him the chief seat of the city. However, this is his delight, and I find little fault with it: for he is a good husband, notwithstanding.

Now the weather seems setting in for a frost, he shall try his hand at a little game for you, being as excellent a marksman as an hunter; nor shall you have it long to say, we can't vary our meals here, as well as you can at London.

I HEARD some time ago, that your father was very much indisposed; how near his end, I can't say; but presume you may give a shrewd guess by his answer to yours: for perhaps, if he has turned his thoughts to another world, he may admit you; but I fear it much, if he harbours a belief of a longer continuance in this.

You see, my dear, by my writing, that I am in a chearful mood, to which your safe return, I can assure you, contributes not a little. Send me the news of the town, for I see, or hear, only what the evening post is pleased to inform me of; where some terrible affair, which has given me a three days vapours, by the next post vanishes like smoke, and is all contradicted again.

EXPECTING your answer, I am, dear madam,

Your most obedient,

MARY GOODALL.

Mrs.

Mrs. ANN GRAHAM, to Mrs.  
HERVEY.

Dear daughter,

Oâ. 18, 1730.

I AM sorry your papa will force so disagreeable a task upon me, instead of answering yours himself; but to give it you in his own words; he wonders, he says, you can be such an impertinent huffy, as to require his leave for visiting him, when you have run away with a stroller, from the excellent provision he had made for you, where you might have corrected all your past errors, by a life of piety and virtue; but he has done with you, he says, desiring you will never trouble him more. You have chosen your own way of life. nor will he any more interrupt you in it. His affection for you urged him to every experiment for reclaiming you; but all having proved ineffectual, he intends, since you dare declare your marriage to him, to alter his will, and cut you off with a silver penny;  
hoping

hoping that when your deluder shall perceive himself excluded from the large fortune he gaped after with you, his pretence to love will be converted into such real malice against you, as may render the rest of your miserable life exemplary to other young people, and deter them from opposing the wills of their parents.

Thus far, child, are the words of your father ; as to my own part, I wish it was in my power to invite you hither, and your husband too, if he is so. I can't say, but the man has shewn much regard for you, in following you about thus long, and hope he may prove able to maintain you. It is a sad thing to lie under a father's displeasure, especially one, who could have done so much for you ; but that time is over ; poor man, it has borne him almost down, nor can I expect him to continue a great while with me ; but in case of an alteration, you shall still find yourself welcome to

Your loving mother,

ANN GRAHAM.

Mrs. SOPHIA HERVEY, to Mrs.  
FRANCIS HERVEY.

Jan. 10, 1735.

SINCE I have survived to see that day, in which I am assured that my dear children are returned to their native soil in safety, what should forbid, but I may close my eyes peaceably in your arms. It is enough, my dear daughter, that I know you are so; and now, with what pleasure shall I quit, not only the hurry of life, but the enjoyments of it, with the estate I am blest with, to such successors, as I am persuaded will hereafter be able to render the best accounts of it. This, my dear children, I am prepared to do, whenever your diversions in town shall permit you to come down to me. A little matter will suffice for me, whose taste for the delights of life, time hath extinguished! and should providence protract it for any continuance, I shall find myself in as safe guardianship under thy husband, Fanny as ever, in his most helpless state, himself was under mine.

I HAVE only to wish you both all happiness, which, so far as I can contribute, shall be the constant endeavour of

Your affectionate mother,

SOPHIA HERVEY.



Mrs. FRANCES HERVEY, to Mrs.  
ANN GRAHAM.

Honoured madam,

Jan 25, 1730.

I RECEIVED by the same post with yours, a letter from Mr. Hervey's mamma, which compared, the one with the other, would scarce be imagined to have been the production of two creatures of the same class of beings, and upon the same occasion too ; that of the marriage of a child: hers is all benignity and love, yours only the dictates of a diabolical desperation.

HAS



HAS not Mr. Hervey's mamma, (could a sound reason be formed from such rotten premises) much more cause for condemning him who has taken me, a poor helpless out-cast from my parents, without the prospect of more to enrich him, than the silver penny portion you mention; than my parents can have for displeasure against me, who have married him with an estate of above five thousand pounds per ann. and treble the ready money my father could have given me, or even himself possessed.

IF my father's passion, madam, hath blinded him, must my eyes of necessity be put out too? No truly, madam, I can see no reason for it. I have married an honest man, a sober man, a virtuous and a loving man, and all these added to a far better estate than my father could have provided for me, with a creature who bore but the outward figure of our kind; and truly, because I neglected his sage advice therein, he was  
so

so benevolent, as to debar me all future human converse, for the good of my soul, that I might study piety in a nunnery; but heaven be praised, madam, I have just seen so much of that, as to convince me heaven is not to be attained by confinement, and that a resolute practice of the duties of a good wife, mother, and friend, will pave the smoothest path to paradise.

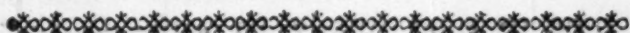
As for a convent, madam, how should he conceive it a place for rectifying errors of my sort, when a small insight into things would convince my father, that errors are scarce amendable, where the will consents not to correct them; and as for my present marriage, I not only dare to avow it, but shall glory in it to my dying day, whether my father approves it or not, unless I would give up every conviction of my reason and affections: nor am I under the least apprehensions from the displeasure of my father, as wrongfully conceived at first, as at present retained against me. My only sorrow, whereby  
it

it can affect me, being left his vengeance should fall upon his own head.

As for such part of your letter, madam, as seems the issue of your own concern for me, I esteem it as yours; and shall ever be most glad of an occasion to testify, how much I desire to approve myself,

Your most dutiful daughter,

F. HERVEY.



Mr. HERVEY and his lady, to Mrs.  
SOPHIA HERVEY.

Ever honoured madam,

London, Jan. 21, 1730.

THE sublimity of your notions of benevolence exceed our capacity of making a return in adequate terms of gratitude, for the happy acceptance we find in your family, my chief concern being how we shall ever sufficiently acknowledge the blessing.

WE

WE hope, madam, heaven will preserve you, not only again to see us, but our descendants; that they may imbibe on your knees those wholesome instructions which have made us so happy in the best of mothers.

WE, who hope to make the dictates of reason our guide, in preference to those of passion, can never want more, than the bounty of providence shall from time to time supply us with; so that, madam, we humbly hope you, as the safest steward, will not think of relinquishing any of your possessions to us, who in yourself, shall ever have a banker, ready to answer our occasional demands.

WE both long to prostrate ourselves for your blessing. and are, madam,

Your most dutiful son and daughter,

GEO. and F. HERVEY.

Mrs.

Mrs. HERVEY, to Mrs. MARY  
GOODALL.

Jan. 25, 1730.

I HAVE often reflected, dear Mrs. Goodall, that in the course of my little experience in the world, no intimacy contracted between two young ladies in so short a space as a fortnight, (which is the most we ever knew each other personally,) was ever improved into such a strict amity and friendship, by a future epistolary correspondence only, as ours has been; nor can I imagine either of us could have been possessed of a more sincere friend, had ages of personal intercourse been allowed us; but still the balance turns against me: for setting aside natural inclination, I have had the satisfaction of disburthening a mind incumbered with adverse occurrences into your breast, where I was certain of a compassionate return at least: whereas your good-nature has extended itself even to a participation of my woes; to which, like

a tender parent, you have ministred every cordial comfort.

WE are now both of us arrived to that state, which bounds the ambition of our sex ; that of wives and mistresses of families ; then let us not, now the melancholy scenes of life are past, neglect by our reciprocal warnings, to advertise each other of our proceedings, as wives, mothers, and mistresses. You have been much longer a wife than myself, and consequently are many steps before me in experimental knowledge ; for which reason I take some hints you have given me in your last in very friendly part.

I HAVE never yet, either before my marriage, or since, gained the least insight what diversions, sports, or exercises Mr. Hervey most favours ; tho' far am I from suspecting him a man of so insipid a taste, as to incline to none ; but my dear, to speak the truth, if I may to yourself declare it without vanity, his whole heart and soul hath for these last  
twelve



twelve months been so wholly devoted to me, as to have incapacitated him from every avocation.

THE good-humour, in which you mention Mr. Goodall's sports, gives me the pleasure of surmising, that you make his diversions agreeable to you; as indeed those of every good husband ought to be to her, who would be esteemed a good wife: for it is the reciprocation of benevolence, and the mutual indulgence we grant to each other's favourite schemes, that in my opinion must establish the felicity of wedlock.

It is not the price of the hare, nor the tail of the fox when caught, to which we must impute a sportman's zeal; but the musick, the company, the exercise, the horsemanship, each contributing to his delight and amusement; nor doubt I but the society of the man we love, in the hour we enjoy it, is enhanced doubly in value, by his absence in the two or three foregoing.

My

My dear, you need not have been so private in cautioning me against complaints, while I have money and necessities provided : for surely, whatever gratification a good husband enjoys, as it rebounds upon the wife, in his pleasantries and good humour, all occasion of complaint must vanish ; and my dear, should not Mr. Hervey direct me to this truth, I hope my natural reason, and the affection I bear him, would ever guide me to it ; but example prevails beyond precept, they say : so that you must allow me a little more time for that, before I shall be so well qualified by this, as you are.

I AM obliged to you for the game you promise me, nor need you fear our giving preference to a Wiltshire bird, before that of any other county.

I RECEIVED letters, by the same post with yours, from both my mammas, Graham and Hervey, which if ever we live to meet I shall lay before you. In  
the

the first of these, my father's illness is attributed to my disobedience; but my dear, if the truth was known, it arises from vexation, that his devices against me have succeeded no better, and to find himself outwitted by his own daughter: for I know those are the sentiments of his Spanish heart. However, if all your prophecies are true, he will get it over: for he is as obstinate as ever, which you say is a shrewd sign of it. How do you think he begins, my dear, tho' in my mamma's hand, which she sends me as of his inditing? He wonders, he says, how I can be such an impertinent hussy, to require his leave for visiting him, when I have ran away with a stroller. Was there ever such rancour harboured in the mind of man before, against so deserving a personage, both in family, fortune, and disposition as Mr. Hervey? But that kind man slights his reproaches for my sake, and still believes all proceeds from the pestilent infusions of my cousin Gosselin. I wont say how true that may be; but unless he was infatuated,

ed, he has had sufficient time, in my absence, to have undeceived himself, which had he but taken the pains to attempt, even common rumour might have rectified his error.

You inquire after the news of the town, little considering that I am as yet but a stranger here, and as much stared at, both at court, and all publick assemblies, as a Londoner in a new fashion in one of our country churches. This, I can tell you, that being last night at the opera, in the front box, mine was remarked for the richest dress there ; and such staring there was at the stranger, as will not a little prevent the rest of many of them, till they shall be ascertained who I am.

O! my dear, did you but know what an immense sum Mr. Hervey has disbursed for my cloathing, already come home, besides what are yet to come, you would be amazed a man should behave so to a wife : for not one of them was

bespoke before I was so ; we being married in the same habits wherein we left Italy. You may call this honey-moon, and I know not what ; yet I am fool enough to believe, it will never change. Mr. Hervey's respects to Mr. Goodall, and to both of you those of

Your sincerest friend and servant,

F. HERVEY.



Mrs. GOODALL, to Mrs. HERVEY.

Feb. 1, 1730.

**T**HAT you may not say, my dear Fanny, I only promise without performance ; I yesterday committed to the care of the Salisbury coachman, two brace of woodcocks, and three of partridges, which soon after your receipt of this, you will find lodged for you at the Angel behind St. Clement's.

DON'T take it amiss, that I remind you foreigners to drink our healths over them; as Mr. Goodall and I do yours, as sure as we sit down to meals. I often wish to make one with you, and have engaged Mr. Goodall to pay you a visit, so soon as ever we shall hear of your arrival at Mrs. Hervey's; for, my dear, we both long to behold that good old lady, and to see how she behaves to you.

WELL! there has been miserable doings in Wales. I heard of it but by accident; but your he-cousin, Tom, your old emissary, is gone for London. It seems, his wife took upon her to wear the breeches, as the saying is, and bringing all the money, was so stupid as to imagine she had a right to the disposal of it; and often snubbed Tom to no little degree, in his state of ignorance; but a Welch attorney having listed him under his banner, by finding ways and means for raising supplies upon bond, has now taken him to town with him, in  
order



order to sell his stocks for their repayment; and what may become of it all before their return, if that ever happens, is uncertain: for Tom swaggers, and swears the man is a fool, that would content himself with a bit of paper, no bigger than he has bought many a penny-worth of tobacco in, instead of the rino in his pocket.

THIS breeding some combustion between him and his yoke-fellow, and she having but a mean opinion of the squire's judgment in that point, one word drew on others, till Tom, the morning he went off, gave his attorney's clerk a letter of attorney to dispose of all his goods, and turned madam fairly out of doors: so that whether ever they may meet in this world more, is above my determination; for Tom insists, and his adviser spirits him up in it, that the man's an ass, that ever submits to his wife in any thing: so that madam seems to be but in a bad case at present.

You see, my dear, that all the news don't arrive to us only from London, by what I have above related.

I AM dearest Mrs. Hervey's very humble servant,

MARY GOODALL.

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Mrs. HERVEY, to Mrs. MARY  
GOODALL.

Feb. 6, 1730.

**Y**OUR story of poor cousin Betsy has given Mr. Hervey and myself more concern, than you can well imagine: for if I may be admitted to foretel her fate from circumstances, she is an undone girl. You can't think, my dear, how pleasing a thing it is to me, to see the uneasiness my dear husband is under on her account, which to me manifests so gentle a disposition, that I am charmed with it. When I talk of retaliation, and how her mischiefs, so disingenuously intended against me, are returned upon her

her own head; you would be surpris'd at the palliations he invents for her, softening each action, till their baseness seems to be lessened; inasmuch that I verily think he would not scruple assisting her, in case of any extremity.

I PROFESS I have had it in my head more than once since the receipt of your last, whether I could not make her necessary, or some how instrumental, in reconciling my father to us: for my dear, tho' I am now wholly independent on him, and cannot but seriously allow, that his past transactions have merited no future regard from me; yet I know not how it is, nature at one's elbow will pluck us by the sleeve, for obtaining that amity, so reciprocally desirable between parents and children. I have many serious reflections on this head, and could it be brought about, under whatever concessions on my part, (wherein I am satisfied Mr. Hervey, for the sake of peace, would willingly join with me) I think I should contribute all in my power towards it.

L 3.

WHILST

WHILST I am upon this serious topick, which engages my attention but the deeper, the more I consider of it; I shall propose to you a quere, for your advice in the affair, being assured you will recommend no other measures to me than yourself in my case would pursue.

MR. Godson, a very worthy man, and some years since of our parish, and with my father in the commission of the peace there; one, who ever to a great degree commanded my father's peculiar regard, for his equitable proceedings to all men, is now my near neighbour in town, where he has settled for about three years past with his family, for the better conducting two young gentlemen, his sons, in their several ways of life here. This Mr. Godson and his lady, I say, visit Mr. Hervey and me, and we them; what should you think of my communicating our whole affair to him, and employing him in a mediation between me and my father? Being well satisfied, of his readiness for any friend-

friendly office of that kind. Now as he ever bore a great sway over my father's judgment, and can no ways mention Mr. Hervey to him in a disadvantageous light; whether you think this gentleman's influence, backed by the real truth of the case, may not over-ballance the prejudices my father hath already imbibed against us? This I refer to your determination, and shall with impatience wait your answer.

I HAVE only to return our acknowledgments for your last favour, which arrived very safe and sweet; nor did we forget the donors, I can promise you, at the regale we made over them; at which the above gentleman, his lady, and daughter were present.

LET your answer be dispatched by the return of the post, to

Your true friend,

F. HERVEY.

Mrs. MARY GOODALL, to Mrs.  
HERVEY.

Feb. 9, 1730.

**H**AVING nothing material to write to my dear Mrs. Hervey, save only a meer answer to her last, I shall be very brief in it.

GIVE me leave, with the highest encomiums, to applaud that lenity of your temper, which with so forcible a bias inclines you to peace with your father; and tho' I would not consent to too abject conditions of your condescension; yet my opinion is, that by every lawful and laudable method, you should invite a reconciliation; nor know I any way more proper, than that you propose, through the means of Mr. Godson: for, my dear, I cannot differ from Mr. Hervey's sentiments, that was your father rightly apprised to whom you are married, which having been once misguided in, he has never sought how to rectify;  
it



it could not be long, before he gave some testimonies of his approval of it. Let it then be your care to make a friend of Mr. Godson, satisfy him first in every thing that he requires, to the conviction of his own judgment, and by that means he will be the better able by proper arguments to support his claim upon your father. All that I can add is only this, that you shall not only be attended with the good wishes for success, but also the hearty prayers of

Your sincere well-wisher.

MARY GOODALL.

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JOHN GODSON, Esq; to CHARLES  
GRAHAM, Esq;

My very good old friend,

Feb. 15, 1730.

THE distance of my removal from  
you, having prevented a personal in-  
tercourse between us, I am greatly de-

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lighted

lighted at the renewal of our former friendship, in the person of your dear daughter, that charming young lady, heretofore miss Fanny, now the wife of Mr. Hervey.

My good friend! when my Lucy and she are in company, (for they are seldom asunder,) how does it recall past scenes between us? Pleasurable scenes, my friend! till forming an idea of their infancy, and tracing them up to the marriage state, which yours hath already arrived at, and my Lucy is but a thought from: I say, when I reflect on these things, it is almost time for us to quit the stage to them and their successors.

It is a great pleasure to me, my good friend, to see your daughter so excellently disposed of: for surely a worthier man never lived, than she has got. I heartily wish I had the same prospect in my Lucy's match; but she cannot expect it: I have other children, who must share my possessions with her; but surely your all  
were

were well bestowed on so deserving a man as Mr. Hervey.

PRAY inform me how good Mrs. Graham wears; she can be but little short of our years. My wife joins in compliments to you both, with, my dear friend,

Your most humble servant,

JOHN GODSON.



CHARLES GRAHAM, Esq; to  
JOHN GODSON, Esq.

Feb. 18, 1730.

UNDER pressures like mine, my old friend, nothing could have revived me, like the receipt of yours of the 15th instant, whereby I learn the health of yourself, Mrs. Godson, and miss; with room for hoping that the other partakers of your fire-side are in the same state; for surely had either illness or alteration happened, you would have mentioned it.

You

You may be said to be an happy father, whose children all, as no doubt miss Lucy doth, will submit to your choice of a husband for her. Alas! my dear friend, that pleasure hath been denied me; my girl, my Fanny, has most contemptuously broke through all restraint, to join herself to a fortune-hunter, an Irishman, my good friend; a sorry fellow, with whom she hath nought in expectation, but rags and beggary; but it is her own choice, no injunction of mine would restrain her, nor any restraint confine her, from the pursuit of her own will.

THIS, my good friend, is so galling to a tender father, as thou well knowest I have ever proved to her; and this return for it hath almost broken my heart. I had hoped for that comfort from her in my age, which might have protracted the remains of life under her gentle behaviour to me; but instead of that, her follies will precipitate me to the grave, even before nature would have called for my departure.

O MR. GODSON ! no one can be sensible of those pangs, which a fond, but disappointed father suffers, for the errors of an unruly child. To see the building, a man has, for half his age, been rearing to his own purposes, destroyed, and overturned by the insinuations of a traiterous fortune-hunter, who would make a prey of a man, his family, his child, his substance ; these, my friend, are what have doubled me with sorrow, and must soon end me ; but you may be sure I shall act like other prudent parents in the like case ; as she has provided for herself, let her stand and fall by it : for not a shilling shall she, nor her new husband ever see of mine. No, I have already otherwise disposed of it.

My friend, you see but the out-side of this artful man, and may approve it. But I would have you cautious how you let miss Lucy keep her company ; lest you may have my fate to struggle with, from some of her husband's country-men,  
sent

sent over upon the same errand with himself; for they are such crafty rascals, you must not credit a single pretence of theirs.

PRAY pay my compliments to your whole family; and, believe me, this instance of your kindness in inquiring after an unhappy father, will ever be remembered with gratitude, by

Your disconsolate friend,

CHARLES GRAHAM.

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JOHN GODSON, Esq; to CHARLES  
GRAHAM, Esq.

My dear friend,

Feb. 28, 1730.

YOUR account of Mr. Hervey, so contradictory to what I before took him for, you may imagine, not only gave me no little pain for my own daughter, but excited my compassion for yours; nor could I rest, till I had given myself all the satisfaction in the affair, that the  
nature



nature of the case was capable of. My good friend, every part of that gentleman's behaviour pleading in direct opposition to your report ; I took the pains of writing into the country, where he told me his seat was, to gain a certainty as to many particulars he had hinted to me ; and from answers thereto, have arrived at a moral assurance, of his being the very man he represents ; but being at his lodgings here in town the other day, who should come in upon us, but our old and very good friend, Mr. alderman Doubler, who proves to be his uncle, and from whom I obtained the following account of him.

THAT his family was formerly established in Worcestershire, and for some hundred years past has enjoyed a very plentiful estate. That his grandfather, Roger Hervey, transplanted his family into Wiltshire, where the present Mr. Hervey's seat now is ; and dying, left it to your son-in-law's father, in whom also, before his death, many of the estates of the collateral branches of the family centering,

centering, by their extinction; the present possessor, your now son, hath a good landed estate in possession, (save about fifteen hundred a year his mother now holds in jointure) of five thousand a year and upwards, with above sixty thousand pounds in the government securities.

I NEED not inform my friend of his endowments, natural or acquired, from the report of his uncle; my own senses bearing testimony to his worthiness, abilities, and qualifications, not inferior (if my good friend can rely upon my judgment in the case) to any one man I ever conversed with. But Sir, the disinterested regard he bears to your daughter is alone sufficient commendation of him to you, as a spouse for her; no two ever setting out under prospect of more present or future happiness than they do.

UPON the whole, my good friend, I am afraid you must have been grossly imposed upon, by some designing person or other, to the prejudice of a gentleman,

man, every way qualified to promote your family's felicity, and to whom few commoners but would boast of an alliance.

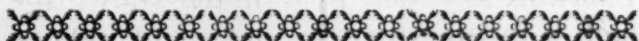
SINCE I have heard your thoughts of him, I have examined them, as to their cause; and am told, you even denied this worthy man an audience, upon his application to you for consent; which I am the more surpris'd at, from the knowledge of your experience in men and things. A fair hearing is what every man hath a right to, before conviction; nor can you blame the steps they have taken for uniting, when yourself declined receiving those reasons they might have offered, why they should unite.

MR. alderman is greatly concerned at the slight put upon his nephew, and would have wrote to you himself about it; but that I hope a right understanding of the case will make you as forward for embracing such worthy relatives, as they themselves are for humbling themselves at your feet, for a pardon of whatever offence they may have given you.

PRAY send me your answer forthwith, for peace in families, being so desireable a thing, no one can be more anxious for contributing to it, than

Your sincere friend,

JOHN GODSON.



Mrs. HERVEY, to Mrs. GOODALL.

Feb. 28, 1730.

**M**Y dear Mrs. Goodall must excuse my neglect of writing for some posts to her, from the hurry my affairs have been in, between us two, Mr. Godson, and Mr. alderman Doubler, our uncle, by my husband's side: for not a day has past without a consultation, in what manner most effectually to introduce a reconciliation with my father.

Mr. Godson only informed him first of our living near and visiting him, and

he us; what a fine gentleman Mr. Hervey was, and how it rejoiced him to see me so well married, without a word of the difference between us; being desirous that the first report he had of that should seem to my father to proceed from himself.

My father, in answer, stated the grief I had caused him by my marriage with such a fortune-hunter, and an Irishman; and advised Mr. Godson not to let us associate with his daughter, lest we should introduce some of my husband's countrymen to run away with her; inveighing most bitterly against us both, who he supposed would soon come to rags and beggary.

THIS epistle being nicely examined in our little council, an answer was drawn up, nem. con. and is to be sent this post to my father, with ample credentials, both of whom, and what, and how, with a condemnation of his past proceedings, and advice for a re-hearing the cause  
more

more impartially ; and now, my dear, I think we have drawn the affair to such a crisis, that another letter must decide my fate, whether I shall again be received into the bosom of my parents, or ejected for ever : it being my positive determination, if this fails, never more to trouble Mr. Hervey in another application.

I HAVE it so much at heart myself, my dear, that I am the most impatient creature breathing, and shall remain so till I can know the event of it. Wish me a prosperous issue, dear friend, for nothing will more contribute to the future serenity of

Your most sincere

F. HERVEY.

Mrs.



Mrs. GOODALL, to Mrs. HERVEY.

March 3, 1730.

I CANNOT say but it surpris'd me, when I found how long it was since you wrote to me last; but yet it fell out luckily enough: for if you had, I had not been able to have answered you till now.

MR. Goodall having a little business, which required his presence at Honyton—, had at first thoughts of riding over by himself, with a servant only; but the weather proving very fine, and I offering him my company, we took the chariot and went together; not without hopes on my part, tho' I knew but little of the country, that possibly Mr. Graham's might lie in our way, or so little out of it, that Mr. Goodall would make no difficulty of my calling upon your mamma, for an hour or so, having not seen her since our marriage.

It

It so chanced, that having made the best inquiries I could upon the road, I discovered, that tho' it was somewhat about, yet it being the best road, we should lose little or no time by halting at your mamma's.

Mr. Goodall consenting, we arrived there; and upon my mention of my maiden name, were admitted into the parlour, whilst your mamma, who was above stairs, was preparing to receive us. There was a young woman sitting by the fire very disconsolately, when we entered the room; but tho' we were a full quarter of an hour together, and had exchanged several topicks with each other, I never once recollected her to be your kinswoman, till your mamma, after complimenting us, calling her Mrs. Goffelin, I recollected my having seen her there in my last visit; but child, she is so miserably altered, that of myself, I could never have recalled her to mind. She used to be a sprightly lass, and a good agreeable woman

woman I thought her ; but she now looks twenty years older than she did, and so heavy and lumpish, as quite amazed me.

YOUR mamma was resolved, she said, not to part with us that night ; so we agreed to stay, and after tea, she of herself informed me you was come to England, and was married to Mr. Hervey ; all which I received as news to me. Ay, said your father, sure no man was ever so unfortunate in an only child as I am ! yet whether unfortunate or not, I can't say ; for there has been such contradictory reports about her husband, as have so confounded me, that I know not what to think of him, or how to dive to the bottom of his character.

I THEN took upon myself to reply, that whilst the discourse of your courtship with Mr. Hervey was in agitation, before you left England, hearing so much talk of him, I had the curiosity to make no small inquiry after him, from some acquaintance in his country ; and that receiving

so satisfactory an account of the gentleman, as to his person, rank, and fortune, I apprehended you, Sir, had some private reasons against the match, or I should have thought it a great thing for Miss Graham.

I know not what to say to it, replied your father. You say he is a worthy man, and a man of fortune, and I have received a letter from a quondam friend at London to the same purpose; but then here's my niece, poor woman, she knows him intimately, and assures me he is a rank Irishman, and a fortune hunter; that he is one of the most wheedling, and insinuating creatures alive; nay even whilst he pretended love to my daughter, finding her secured from him, he had the impudence to say, that my daughter almost compelled him to act as he had done; but that, in truth, his affections were so settled upon my niece, that he should be the most unhappy man in life, if he could not obtain her. Nay, he so worried her, poor girl, as almost to distract

tract her; infomuch, that to avoid his further impertinencies, (for he would force himself into her house by the week together, swearing he would never depart more, till he had made her his wife) and to quit herself of him, she was so simple as to marry a poor rascal, that has spent her fortune and undone her by it.

EVERY drop of the blood of my body was by this time all in my face; nor had I not given vent to my passion, could I have supported myself. Madam, said I, to Mrs. Gosselin, with as stern a look as ever I put on in my life before, is what you have informed Mr. Graham the real truth? She blushed and answered, it was; and much more, that she could have added, had it been her inclination to have bred a further difference in the family; but what she had declared, she looked upon as so necessary a part of her duty to her uncle, that she could no ways conceal it.

PRAY, said I, did you inform your uncle what had been done on your part? How many forged stories you had invented, to divert the gentleman from the pursuit of your cousin and to invite him to your own bed? and with what contemptuous disdain he shook you off, and disregarded you? Did not you harbour him in your own house, merely that he might be near to your cousin? Was not a correspondence carried on between you all, by letter, at your house? and that, by the intervention of the poor fellow you have now the confusion to call husband? Did not this continue till Mr. Hervey became so amiable to yourself, as to involve you in the breach of friendship, relationship, and every the most sacred tie of human nature, for compassing your own ends with him, and disappointing your cousin of as worthy a man, in Mr. Hervey, as ever trod the earth? And when all would not avail, did you not in frenzy for the loss of him, when your importunities would no longer suffer him to endure the  
house



house with you, but he had disgracefully quitted you, cast yourself away to that worthless fellow Tom, in very malice for the indignity you thought Mr. Hervey had put upon you? Answer me, madam, to these questions added I, which christian patience will no longer permit me to keep back. Answer me, how you dare now in your calamity, to enter these doors, when your false heart is conscious, you have not only driven this gentleman's daughter, but all peace from both his breast and hers. Answer me, I say, or wrapped in confusion, sink quick beneath the earth, to conceal your shame.

MR. Graham and your mamma, I believe, took me to be mad, and were astonished at my running on so; nor did your cousin answer me a word. But no sooner had I recovered my speech again, for I was almost out of breath; than I have a thousand pardons to beg of you Sir, and of you madam, said I for the vehemence I have expressed myself with; but it is beyond sufferance, to hear per-

sons of eminence in life traduced by the mouth of an infamous detractor. As for what I have now said, Sir, I am certain it is true, and I appeal to that vile woman for a confirmation of it. Then being so, can you blame the warmth, wherewith I am impelled to expose her baseness?

YOUR papa and mamma stood confounded at what I had uttered, and demanded of your cousin, what she had to say against it? But she, bursting into tears, wondered, she said, they could so tamely sit and see her vilified, and by a stranger too. Surely her uncle had known her too long, to imagine she would impose upon him in any thing, especially in what so nearly concerned him; adding, that she could have expected no less, than that her uncle's indignation would have arisen so against my forgery, that he would have turned me out of doors, before I had half way delivered myself of such a parcel of lyes as I had told.

THE

THE old gentleman's faith beginning to stagger again at what she said, he demanded whether she had received any letters from you, and answered them? or whether Mr. Hervey had done the like at her house, whilst you was in confinement? To which she boldly replied, No, it was all a falsity, an absolute falsity; defying me to prove it.

HERE I was driven to such a non-plus, the defensive part of the story being thrown upon me, that I was never more at a puzzle in my life, than how I should behave under this dilemma; till my thoughts flashing as quick as lightning through my mind, I recollected your maid Hannah, who then lived with you, and who you had told me had procured her brother as your emissary, and desired, that if she was still living in the family, she might be called; from whose testimony I would clear up the whole affair.

M 3

YOUR

YOUR mother then replied, that her brother, soon after his marriage with her neice, having set Hannah up in a piddling shop, she had left them ever since; but as she was but a step off, she would send for her. This I desired might be done, and we fell into discourse of other matters. In the interim of which, your cousin took an opportunity of leaving the room; but now, my own honour being engaged in the dispute, I desired that Mrs. Gosselin might have no opportunity of seeing or speaking to Mrs. Hannah, till she came face to face before us all; and this was held so reasonable, that your papa offered himself to follow the messenger, and see that no foul play was carried on. He did so, and Hannah appearing; your cousin was sent for; but having locked herself up in her chamber she refused to come, notwithstanding both your papa and mamma themselves went to bring her. At length not being able to prevail, they again entered.

tered the parlour, when your papa began with Hannah, in the following manner.

HANNAH, said he, I have need of some particular information from you, much regarding the welfare of my family. Any thing, she said, that she could satisfy his worship in, he might command. Then, added he, you must declare the truth, to what I shall demand of you, without favour or affection to me, my daughter, or any other person; and I here before all this good company assure you, that whatever you shall say, shall not in the least prejudice you, in mine, or your lady's favour; provided you adhere to truth only. She then promised, that be it what it would, she would conceal nothing from us.

FIRST, Hannah, said your father, knowest thou of any correspondence carried on by my daughter, during her confinement at my house? She answered, Yes.—With whom? said he. Miss Cross.

M 4

that

that was, and Mr. Hervey.—Who went between them? added he. My brother Tom, replied she.—How was it carried on? By letter.—Frequently? Twice or thrice a week—Have you ever seen any of my niece's letters to my daughter? Many of them.—Perswasive of, or dissuasive from the marriage with Hervey? Persuasive all, but one or two of the last; when she advised her by all means to marry Mr. Harrison.—What did Hervey's letters contain? Matters of love, in the tenderest strains imaginable; till one or two of the last, declared the treacherous part Miss Cross had played my mistress, by endeavouring all she could to get him to relinquish my mistress for her; but he said, he had left her house upon it, and had sent her such a letter by my brother Tom, as must have stung her to the quick; and the next news I heard was, my brother's marriage with miss, now my sister.

Good Sir, said I, (perceiving that this examination, and the unexpected answers  
Hannah



Hannah had so deliberately returned him, grew sorely afflicting to him,) you had better dismiss Mrs. Hannah, unless you would inquire any thing further from her. You have been deceived, it is plain. Ay, by my conscience, cried Hannah, or never man in the world was; and my sister has been a base woman, though she is now my sister; a base woman, I say, to my young lady, and that my brother too well knows; and that it was not for love of him, but out of madness for Mr. Hervey's rejecting her, that she became his wife.

YOUR Papa then ordering Hannah a cup of ale with the servants, dismissed her; and turning to your mamma, whose hand he took in his own, the scene between them two, became almost too moving for expression, which so overcame both Mr. Goodall and myself, that we had not a dry eye amongst us all till bed time.

I WILL, as well as I am able, give you a faint idea, my dear, of the dis-

strefs of thy tender parents, for so I shall ever henceforth call them.

NANNY, said your father, (raising your mother's hand to his lips, and kissing it) we had once my dear, as the produce of our early love, a daughter; an only child, Nanny. Have we not fondled her in the infant state, and smiled and kissed her, till our very souls issued into her little bosom? Was she not dear to us? Child, could any thing be more so? Witness ye powers superiour, if ever father loved like me? or like thyself, a mother? What! was this child of ours torn from our embraces, by the cold hand of death, that we have lost her? that all the joys we had promised ourselves in her, and her posterity, should be lost to us? Nanny, speak Nanny, was she forced to seek her bread abroad? or were we able to have maintained her at home in plenty? We were; nor wanted she one earthly comfort. We acted therein like parents; but she fled from us. She was to blame. I recovered her, and with  
4 the

the man she loved, and as we hear, and I now believe, worthy her love, and my affection. She would have humbled herself to me; but would I hear her? No. He too would have pleaded for himself and her; but would I hear him? No. What! would I give no ear to any thing relating to my child? I did. To whom? A deceiver, a designer, an underminer. Base, brutish serpent! Why do I exclaim! She the deceiver, I easily alas! too easily deceived. (And here they wept most bitterly) When your father proceeding. Why didst not urge me to further inquiry, Nanny? What! could I give up all future hopes in my own child for a whisper? We are both to blame; but how if our dear child will not accept that acknowledgment; how miserable are we, self condemned! That we have injured the sweet innocent, is too apparent to wait further reasoning upon; what must be done, to reinstate ourselves in her affection again? The act of duty must be inverted, instead of she to us, we must sue to her for forgiveness. Horrid

rid reflection for us both ! we have dealt injuriously by our child, my dear, nor can we repay it, but by the submission of us both to her, upon our knees submitting, if that may be accepted. O heavens ! had she perished under our severities, whom might we most immediately have blamed for it, but ourselves ; too easy of belief against her, whom no malicious suggestions whatever should have prevailed to the discredit of ? But will submission do ?

THEY were both flooded all this while, and wringing their hands ; when interposing to their relief ; I replied, They will do Sir. Nay, less than your submission will do. No, Sir, your daughter's heart is a treasury of notions too refined, to permit her parents (though I must admit you have wronged her) to stoop to her for remission of whatever injustice she may have suffered from you. Believe me, Sir, both herself and Mr. Hervey crave nothing more on earth, than to prostrate themselves for a reconciliation with you :

nor lives there a more virtuous or dutiful lady in the world, than herself.

ALAS! said your father, aim not by soft speeches to abate my anguish; her lips alone can minister comfort to my broken heart. Have I not wronged her? injuriously denied her my credit? unjustly condemned her? You place the pleasing side towards me, ignorant of her judgment, upon my cruelty to her.

I NEITHER could longer sustain myself, as a spectator of your father's sorrows, nor could I longer conceal the part I had acted with you; so that, Sir, said I, you conjecture I perceive that what I now offer arises from my own surmises, without other foundation, than to abate your present concern; but when I shall have proceeded a step further with you, I shall not doubt of giving you more solid satisfaction.

KNOW then, Sir, that your daughter and I have maintained a settled correspondence.

respondence together, ever since you took her from Mr. Harrison's; nor has the least transaction of either escaped the knowledge of the other; nor has our correspondence yet ceased. No, I expect letters from her now waiting for me at home, and shall myself write to her so soon as I return; then let me lay her heart before you in her own words; that both she and Mr. Hervey would even condescend to the most abject submission to your will, could they but gain your future favour, and be ingrafted into your affections, as children. Not that the occasions of life would urge them to it; no, they want support from no man, Mr. Hervey's estate being already too plentiful for that; but merely for the sake, both of their parents, and their own happiness.

I THEN run a discant upon the goodness of Mr. Hervey's mother to you both; of the present she sent you to Rome, and with what maternal tenderness she expressed herself to you, even  
equally.



equally with her own son; and that I was personally acquainted with him; when from the encomiums I gave both of him and his mother, I thought your father would have gone wild. What have we been doing all this while my dear? said he, forcing our own child upon other people, made an outcast by ourselves; and shall we not recall her? O! my dearest children! yes, you are both so. O! that I was but with you, to atone for all my past misbehaviour! My dear, added he, let us set out for London tomorrow morning; the sooner the better; don't let us delay it. Your mother seeming to hesitate, as not choosing the journey much; I took upon me to tell your papa, that as possibly he might never have intended to revisit London, unless upon this occasion; I believed he might spare himself the inconvenience of a journey; for that I was satisfied, the least expression of his regard for you, and inclination for seeing you, would send you to the furthestmost parts of the earth, to kiss his feet;

feet; and that he had only to write his pleasure to you, to be obeyed.

HAVING proceeded thus far, till we were all so hipped we were half crazed; Mr. Goodall and I taking leave, retired to bed. We left your father next morning, about to write to you, and in the highest spirits at the hopes of his approaching felicity, in the sight and embraces of his dear children.

I RECEIVED your last upon my arrival at home, and am heartily glad I shall be so well backed by Mr. Godson; nor will his report meet with the less welcome, for having been so evidently established in their minds before that can reach them.

If you are but half so fatigued with reading it, as I am with writing this long history of my travels, you will believe the best sentence it contains is, that

I am your most sincere friend,

MARY GOODALL.

CHARLES

CHARLES GRAHAM, Esq; to  
GEORGE HERVEY, Esq;

My dear son,

March 6, 1730.

**T**HAT man is subject to error, is a maxim never more truly verified, than in myself; but that the prudent man no sooner discerns it, than he rectifies it, is as certain. That I had received both mischievous and erroneous impressions of you and my daughter, is true; but that my judgment is now reversed from conviction, upon the affirmation of Mrs. Goodall, confirmed by my good friend Godson, is what I shall ever esteem as my supremest felicity; if I find that acceptance in the eyes of my dear children, which the sincerity of my sorrow for all my machinations against them, I hope, will merit at their hands.

BELIEVE me, dear son, I heartily condemn that credulity, I too readily afforded to the tongue of a base incendiary;  
but

but for whose delusive insinuations, my anger had never flamed out to the degree it did, against my dear children; but heaven, in compassion to my infirmity, has now exposed both the scheme and the author to my just contempt, and restored that affection to you both, which is most deservedly due to you.

I HAVE only now to assure you, how happy I shall think myself in embracing you both here, with the fondest desire of the most tender of parents, which you shall ever find in

Your late mistaken, but now

Indulgent father,

C. GRAHAM,

Mrs.

Mrs. ANN GRAHAM, to Mrs.  
HERVEY.

March 6, 1730.

YOUR Papa, my dearest Fanny, is  
friends with you and your hus-  
band, and by this post hath wrote to  
invite him and you down to us. O!  
my dear child! the heart of thy poor  
mother is ready to burst with joy for  
this happy reconciliation. He has been  
sadly deceived, poor man; and you know  
my dear, he is too warm in his passion;  
but it is now over, and the thoughts of  
your hardships have cost us a deluge of  
tears to wash away. Delay not, my  
dearest child, to joyn in the embraces of

Thy fond mother,

ANN GRAHAM.

Mrs.

Mrs. FRANCES HERVEY, to Mrs.  
GOODALL.

March 9, 1730.

FROM henceforth let me date the æra of my restored felicity; doubly so to me, in that it has first brought me the joyful news of restored amity with my father; and then that it was brought about by the means of the only person in nature, I can pride myself in being debtor to: for sensible I am, my dear Mrs. Goodall, though this desirable event might have been effected by Mr. Godson at last; yet, that nothing could have hurried it to so speedy a conclusion, as the incontestable evidence you confirmed the truth of every your assertions by, and the confusion you thereby threw upon the delinquent; who, though she avoided your presence, whilst there in person, can never be so hardy in your absence, as to contradict the remaining testimony of Hannah.

O!



O! THAT dear woman, she has for ever won my heart; nay so has she confirmed herself in Mr. Hervey's graces, that he says, she shall never want a true friend and patron in him, nor a means of future subsistence, proportionate to his regard for her, in case of his death before hers.

INSTEAD of that humility, I never doubted but I must have expressed, at re-obtaining my father's affections, whenever the time should arrive; that good man, my dear, is so convinced of the injuries done me, that he has even himself become a suppliant to Mr. Hervey, for our acceptance of his sorrow for it.

WHAT a base creature, my dear, has that cousin of mine shewn herself; but how acceptable to me is it, appearing in the light you placed it before my dear father: for unless face to face, she had been convicted thereof before him, to  
whom

whom she had accused me, I could not have indulged over the discovery with half the pleasure I now do.

MR. Hervey lives in pain, till he shall have an opportunity of explaining to yourself, the sense he bears of the obligations you have conferred on us both; and now, my dear, London no longer can engage us with all its smiling gaieties, since we have game of so much more noble a nature to pursue in the country: so that we shall only dispose of a few hundreds here, for appearing in, there, before we set out for my father's.

CHILD! I have such an husband, as were it but agreeable to my inclination, would ornament me at the expence of his whole estate. Nay, he declares, that as nothing can add to the pleasure he takes in my finery, he should look but meanly on his own satisfactions, should any lady in the county out-strip me: so  
that

that I shall have almost a waggon load of sumpture to attend my march.

MR. Hervey has bespoke a new chariot, which will be ready in a fortnight; when the first visit we pay in it will be to my father, and the next to our good mother Hervey: and as you shall have timely notice of this, I shall expect Mr. Goodall and you there, so soon after our arrival as possible.

My poor mamma is overjoyed to think she shall see me again, and has begged me not to delay coming; so that after all the tempests I have been tossed in of late, there is no conceiving how grateful the pleasure of returning serenity is.

I am, dear Mrs. Goodall,

Your most obliged friend

and servant,

F. HERVEY.

GEORGE

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; and his  
lady, to CHARLES GRAHAM, Esq;

Ever honoured Sir and Madam,

March 9, 1730.

**N**OTHING but the voice of an angel,  
summoning us up to everlasting  
blessedness, could have sounded so musically to us, as the call of our kind father and mother, to their embraces. Believe us, dear Sir, we are but too well persuaded, your prejudices against us were founded upon that fallacy, which the wisest man can never pretend he should not have been ensnared by; and as we ever hoped that providence in due time would manifest the uprightness of our intentions; we were under the less concern, for what might be said against us; little doubting but so soon as the truth had confounded error, we should meet that acceptance from you both, which other children, under like circumstances, might with reason expect.

IT

IT has been urged by us, even against ourselves, in some parts of the prosecuting our amour, that we were acting in express contradiction to your known wills; but often would we retort upon ourselves, in answer to such suggestions, that it being only against your misguided wills, it worked no opposition, to the same wills better informed. As therefore, we humbly hope your present would always have proved your will, had things been plac'd in a true light before you; so we hope, whatever steps we may have taken, will not be imputed to us as a breach of that duty, we are bound in to our dearest father and mother.

WE have but few things, Sir, to settle in town, before we shall both have the honour of prostrating ourselves before our kind parents, for their blessing upon

Their most dutiful and obedient,

GEO. and F. HERVEY.

GEORGE HERVEY, Esq; to Mrs.  
SOPHIA HERVEY.

Honoured madam,

March 11, 1730.

**I** HAVE the pleasure to signify to you by this, what has afforded my wife and myself the sublimest satisfaction; and that is, that through the mediation of my wife's best friends, an intercourse is established between her family and us, having received an invitation to Mr. Graham's as soon as possible.

THE old gentleman is now thoroughly convinced, that I am no such despicable husband for his daughter, as had been villanously insinuated to him by a subtle wench, for answering her own unworthy purposes; and hath excused his rigorous sentiments of us in the most genteel manner: so that my mind never was more at ease than at present; not only at my own prospect of so speedy a reconciliation, but for that it administers such abundant joy to a wife, who by her agree-



agreeable behaviour renders herself daily more and more dear to me, and beyond measure recompences every difficulty in the attainment of her. Nay, now they are so happily over, it is impossible to conceive how we indulge over the reflection of past scenes, each recalling to mind some fond expression of our affection for each other.



My uncle Doubler has in no mean degree been instrumental in composing differences between us, being not only by his relationship to me, capable of ascertaining who I am, and what my fortune is; but also by his own figure in life, a man of consequence enough to be credited.

WE shall set out for Mr. Graham's about a fortnight hence, which first visit of ours, considering the circumstances it is to be attended with, we humbly hope, dear madam, you will excuse; as most undoubtedly our duty ought primarily to be paid to yourself, who have ever

contributed so much to the happiness we now possess ; but relying upon your usual indulgence to us in this, as in every other case, I am, dear madam,

Your most dutiful and obedient,

GEO. HERVEY.

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Mrs. FRANCES HERVEY, to Mrs.  
MARY GOODALL.

My dear Mrs. Goodall,

March 22, 1730.

**W**HO do you think I saw yesterday morning, as Mr. Hervey was shewing me Westminster-abbey ? Why even mine own cousin, Tom Gosselin, gaping about there with neck erect like a goose, and listening to the fellow's account of the monuments.

WE immediately joined companies ; for Mr. Hervey perfectly recollected him, through all his gaudy trappings ; but as for myself, he was till that instant a perfect

fect stranger to me, who had never seen more of him, than barely his shadow by moon-light, when he happened at such times to be on duty. They two falling into chat, Mr. Hervey told him who I was, and at length that we might not obstruct the design of our appearance there, invited him home to dine with us so soon as we had finished our amusement.

Mr. Hervey and I had seen those curiosities before; and that our guide presently perceived; but my cousin Tom was two or three times obliged to lug out, in compliance with the custom of the place, by way of forfeiture; tho' Tom's pockets being brim full, he did it with a good grace, and was as generous as an emperor.

Our chariot waiting for us, at the abbey gate; after handing me in, Mr. Hervey offered a corner to Tom, expecting no doubt but he would have refused it, and have followed us some other way; but Tom took him at his word, and squat-

ting himself down by me, left Mr. Hervey to his chance in an hackney coach after us.

WE had no sooner dined ; than we inquired after his lady, hoping, we said, she was well, and no doubt in town with him. Not she, by my troth, said Tom ; no, no, I had enough of her before I came hither ; for to be plain with you, master Hervey, I never desire to see any more of her. Lard ! Sir, if a-body had but known what a place this London was before, who's would shud ha lived in the country so long for me. Why, madam, added he, (addressing himself to me) a man has no more need of a wife in this town, than to run his head against every post he meets with.

Mr. Hervey inquired whether he was in any business here ? Business ! Sir, replied Tom ; why, I have scarce had time to eat and sleep since I came, there is such a power of things to do here. Was you ever in London before, master ? said he.

Mr.

Mr. Hervey replied, he had ; but never could provide himself with such abundant employment. Why then, said Tom, you was never upon the top of the monument and Pole's ; was you, master ? Mr. Hervey confessing he was not ; Tom replied, he had been but a month in town yet, and had been nine times upon Pole's, and as many he believed upon the monument, which were the finest prospects he ever saw, unless in Wales ; but even there a-body could not see half the houses and people. There was the tower, and the great hall where the giants stood, but he forgot the name of it, he said, and Bedlam ; lard ! there were such a power of places, that he never stood still all day, and frequently went to the play without his dinner in his belly, he was so taken up : for he would not miss that charming sight, a single night, for ever so much ; they always played a new way, he said, and so many tricks, that a man could never be weary of it.

IN short, my dear, Tom lives at will; no more knowing what he is about, than the sails of a windmill; but is ever in action: so that having sat attentive to his history till past four o'clock, he started up and must call upon Mr. Curry, he said, to go to the play with him.

MR. HERVEY demanded who that gentleman was? One of the best-natured creatures, replied Tom, that ever lived. Why, he has taken the pains to come out of Wales with me, merely to shew me life a little, as he calls it, and instruct me in the ways of the town. Pray, said Mr. Hervey, of what occupation may the gentleman be? O! replied Tom, he can read and write like any thing, and knows every thing in the world that a-body can ask him, and is what you may call a lawyer. Why, only to shew you now what some people can do, when they set their heads to it; if this very man did not only take a bundle of papers of my wife's, and after turning and turning them



them about and about, for half an hour, away goes he with but a few of them in his pocket, giving me all the biggest and best of them back again, and in little more than an hour, what do you think he brought me? Mr. Hervey replied, that truly he could not tell; Ha, ha, ha, said Tom, why, no less than two hundred pounds, as he said it was; for I put it into my pouch, and thought myself very well off, let me tell you.

WE soon found, that Tom always treated his lawyer wherever they went, for he said, a man ought not to spend his time and his money too with him. Thus Tom, being so very considerate, moved off to the play-house; leaving Mr. Hervey and me under deep contemplation of the inconsiderateness of one part of the species, whilst another part were picking their pockets.

Tom having set out in this hopeful way, what can be the end of poor miss Cross, but ruin and destruction! How

fatal, my dear, is one wrong step in the conduct of our sex! Hard fate! methinks, that it should be impossible to recal it! a whole life of repentance leaves no room for the reward of penitence; but tho' she has made a false step, the best of us might have done it to have gained my dear Mr. Hervey; and she deserves some regard at least for that.

My dear, we shall set out the beginning of the week, for my father's; but as it may be uncertain how long we may tarry there, you shall hear from me from thence, time enough to be soon after me, at my mamma Hervey's.

I am your sincere friend,

F. HERVEY.

Mrs.

Mrs. MARY GOODALL, to  
Mrs. HERVEY, at CHARLES  
GRAHAM's, Esq;

March 29, 1731.

**H**OPING this will meet my dear Mrs. Hervey at her father's, under every joyous circumstance, that so desiræable a meeting can produce; and not knowing how soon you may set out for Mrs. Hervey's, my impatience for a description of the reception you have met with hath spurred me on to beg a line from you on that occasion.

I HAD certainly been happy in the relation of it from your own mouth, had I not been confined to the house by Mr. Goodall's present indisposition, who caught a cold last week which has turned since to so violent a fever, as almost put me besides hope of his recovery; but heaven be praised! his physician pronounces him to be now out of danger.

O! my dear, this part of a marriage care you have not yet sustained, and I hope never will, till time having impaired the relish of life, you may wait each other's dissolution with this mitigating hope, that the survivor will not long remain behind: for assuredly, my dear, no torments have such an effect upon the female heart, as the hopeless condition of a dying husband, that one loves; it is such a separation of a member off one's own body, as cannot be undergone but with the utmost anguish and horror. I should never have been able to have described the love I bore to Mr. Goodall, had I not been put upon this exercise of it; but, my dear, with my hopes, my spirits rise; and now I doubt not but we shall both be soon able to congratulate you at G—t—n—hall, where you may depend upon seeing us, so soon as ever Mr. Goodall is able to attend:

Your sincere friend,

MARY GOODALL.

Mrs.

Mrs. FRANCES HERVEY, to Mrs.  
MARY GOODALL.

My dear Mrs. Goodall,

April 8, 1731.

I REMEMBER to have heard, that one of the wise heads of London addressed king Charles the second at his first arrival in his capital, with sorrow in one hand, and grief in the other; two handfuls of which commodities were enough to have over-set majesty itself, had he not prudently, by ordering them both together, diminished them into a single handful; from whence the king took heart again, the great man having then a spare hand for the entertainment of joy: but you, my dear friend, without racking my contrivance for the experiment, have at once so equally ballanced your hands by the two extreems, that I know not which has most influence upon me: for as it is expedient for a woman to know the affection she bears her husband, lest conjecturing she hath not, that she hath, should

should grow remiss in her duty to him. This, till Mr. Goodall's late illness, I perceive you was ignorant of; therefore give me leave to wish you joy of your experience and Mr. Goodall's recovery, both together, let the cause of the former have been what it will.

I AM sorry we must not expect you so soon as we wished, but to satisfy your impatience; know, my dear friend, that upon our arrival at my father's, I verily thought (as the saying is, amongst those whose only gratification lies in their palates) that the old gentry would have eaten us up, they expressed their satisfaction at our first appearance by such numberless significant tokens. Not a syllable beyond the key of a whisper, or an aspirated groan being heard, whilst we remained enfolded in each other's embraces. My father having infolded Mr. Hervey in his arms, as if I had no ways been concerned in the case, and my mother enclasping me so long in her arms, as if Mr. Hervey had been a stranger to her; but



but the first flow of our alternate passions having spent itself, disjoining us by consent for a breathing, we seized cross partners, and to it we went again; so like to the former onset, that it will be needless to repeat it.

My poor father was really so overjoyed, that he spake not two coherent sentences together, for the space of as many hours. There was,—Well, but my dearest Fanny;—Son Hervey, what an alteration there is since I saw you last?—You never saw my son Hervey before, my dear.—And have you enjoyed your health, Fanny?—O! how have I been deluded! By such hints, and starts, did my poor papa express himself, till we became better acquainted, and more familiar together; when at length, neither side beholding the least reserve, either in the other's countenance or behaviour, we began to converse like other sensible people.

We arriving in the evening, sat up not long after supper, which was as elegantly  
set

set forth, as the shortness of the time would permit; but nothing less than the best Genoa damask bed could be worthy of us; and tho' it had not been laid in for twenty years last past, that or none must be made up for us, my mother priding herself in laying us for the first night in her own wedding sheets. In short, no demonstration of joy and affection, that could have any way been evidenced, was omitted by the old gentleman and lady, either to ourselves or to our attendants.

THE next day was spent in remoter expressions of their regard for us; in walking in the garden, and shewing Mr. Hervey his estate, which my papa would often say would one day be his own; nor was any little pleasurable action to either of us left out of the account. My mamma taking me up to her dressing-room, presented me with several jewels, together with her own and my papa's picture, set about with diamonds.

THE

THE third morning, after breakfast, my father taking out his pocket-book, and tumbling over his papers, seemed vastly confounded for some time; every now and then feeling in his pocket, and shaking his pocket-book, till at last unfolding his papers separately, he looked pleased again at having found what he wanted; then taking out a small piece of paper, which I presume he had procured from his agent at London, purposely against we came, and presenting it to Mr. Hervey, he desired his acceptance of that for the favours I had received from him before our marriage; adding, that at his and his wife's death, he hoped we should find something more worthy our acceptance.

MR. Hervey, not judging proper to open it in my father's presence, made his compliments, as that ten times the favours in his power ever to bestow on me, were but a mean purchase of my person, which he set so infinite a value upon. This passed

passed off, and in divers pleasing transactions the day stole from us till bedtime ; when as we were together in our chamber, my dear, said I, have you ever looked into the little paper my father gave you in the morning ? He replied, no ; for that in truth, he had not once thought of it since ; but now, I put him in mind of it, he would. What should it be, but a single bank note for twenty thousand pounds, dated but about a week before.

WE were both struck mute at sight of the sum, being far from what either of us expected ; but Mr. Hervey could not be silent upon the genteel manner in which my father had presented him with it. I said, I was sorry he had not before known what it was, that he might have thanked my father for it ; but he was of another opinion ; for in my mind, my dear, said he, to examine a present in the sight of the donor looks as if a man was desirous of seeing whether it was worth acceptance ; but said, he would find an opportunity

portunity in the morning for acknowledging the old gentleman's favour, in a more grateful and acceptable manner.

IN short, my dear, the great difficulty now was, how we should get away again: for by their good wills, neither my father nor mother would ever have parted with either of us more; nay, my mamma told me, that by all my father's discourse to her, he seemed more fond of Mr. Hervey than of myself; but as a visit to Mrs. Hervey was of the same necessity as to my father, on the tenth morning we took leave, but under promise of frequent returns; and they both assured us, it should not be long before they paid their compliments themselves to Mrs. Hervey.

WE arrived at my other mamma's two days ago, when we ran through such further scenes of unaffected joy on both sides, as well nigh overpowered us; nor have I scarce been able to find time to pen down this sketch of my entertainment, for  
the

the delight of my dear friend, whose satisfaction for my enjoyments, I have experienced to equal my own, and whom having once seen, with Mr. Goodall; my circle of joy will be compleated. Nothing now causes me so much regret, my dear, as that this occasion of our mutual intercourse ceasing, our future correspondence for want of proper matter for its supply, may possibly be extinguished, or at least may dwindle into formality; but let me assure my dear friend, who has ever proved herself so through the whole course of my adversity, that no accession of fortune, or excess of satisfaction in my own family, shall interrupt those desires I shall ever retain, of continuing

Her most sincere friend and servant,

F. HERVEY.

F I N I S.